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INDUSTRIAL WORKER

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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Profile of Courage: *A Woman Scorned*

by zimya' a. toms-trend

Modern medicine, the Washington state Labor and Industry office (L&I), and the insurance industry collude mercilessly and term Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) a psychomatic problem -- TRANSLATION: "it's all in your head!" Poisoned workers (mostly women) must sink or swim when they're too ill to return to work. Unions claim they are helpless because many of their insurers are self-insured with inadequate regulation. L&I denies the claims, through consulting physicians who are more responsive to the pharmaceutical/chemical industry than the injured workers who are their patients.

Although they suffer from MCS or other environmental illness and in the past have not been health or environmental activists, these poisoned workers refuse the victim role and have gone public against all odds.

Carey Jugum is one of 100+ busdrivers for the Northshore School district in the Seattle suburb of Bothell. She, like 85% of the drivers is a woman; unlike them, she's not a single parent but has a husband. Each Teamster Local #763 driver is guaranteed 4-1/2 hours a week driving time, while the range is 20-40 hours and average work week is 25 hours. Carey is now a survivor and activist instead of a victim.

In September 1991 Northshore School District received 3 BLUEBIRD T-buses with front-end diesel engines bringing air inside from the outside. Although 3 women drivers became ill and complained, they were ignored until February 1992 when they were finally transferred to rear-end diesel buses. In September 1992 all rear-end diesels were pulled out of service with the arrival of 32 additional T-buses.

When drivers bid on new buses, they're locked in for a 6-year period while old buses locked a driver in for only one year. Since many of the old buses were sold, what exist now are old propanes, rear-engines and (new) front engine diesels. Carey bid on a T-bus in Jan. 1992 and by the end of the month had a red rash on her neck, hands and face. She protected her eyes with sunglasses but began having headaches. Each Friday she had flu-like symptoms, but didn't relate it to her T-bus.

In January 1993 Carey smelled fuel on her afternoon route and became confused, didn't know where she was, and her eyes were so blurry she couldn't read the map. She first dropped off her junior high students then had to be relieved of her elementary school children's route when her bus's fuel line spouted a major crack and diesel oil spilled all over the road.

After she filed her claim Friday, Jan.29, 1993 she followed her shop steward's advice and went for a check-up Saturday, Jan.30 at the busdriver's clinic. Her blood test for carbon monoxide poisoning was nil because all readings must be done within an hour for accurate blood results. On Monday at the job, she was assured her bus had been fixed. She later stated to her shop steward: "I was as high as a kite, but I did my route anyway. After the morning route I had rashes all over my face."

Carey was interviewed in a *Seattle Times* article Feb.10 "Northshore Bus Drivers Complain of Illness" and a few days later returned to drive a propane bus. The heaters didn't work, her nose and throat were burning, so she returned to her T-bus, biding her time until her March 3 appointment with Dr. Dudley of Washington Institute of Neurosciences. His prognosis was that Carey was exposed to diesel fuel and now had a chemical sensitivity to petroleum products. On March 13 allergist Gordon Baker, M.D. told her to take a medical leave for health reasons. She received Worker's Compensation from March 2-June 15 and then throughout the summer, since a Certificate of Disability is needed every 3 months for continued Worker's Compensation benefits. Her Sept. 20 appointment with Stephen Schacter, M.D. was instrumental in continued benefits to Dec.1993 with her diagnosis of toxic encephalopathy.

Although she has constant ringing in her ears and has already lost one decible of hearing, she's luckier than most poisoned workers because her Worker's Compensation claims have so far been honored. Carey has had to pay her doctor bills since the insurance company refuses to do so, but allegedly L&I is in the process of forcing the insurance company to pay Carey's bills.

The school district hired industrial hygienists Schuymacher & Associates to get to the root of the problem and their July 1993 report indicated elevated levels of carbon dioxide and low humidity, which indicates poor ventilation on T-buses. Any chemical from inside/outside the bus gets circulated exclusively to either the front or rear of the bus instead of being flushed out. Schuymacher & associates stated that "the changes necessary will be more extensive than the school district alone can accomplish."

Bus Tanks Leak Fuel

All drivers of T-buses were warned to put gas caps on tighter to conserve fuel, but a study by the Washington Industrial Safety & Health Administration in Aug-Sept.1993 corraborated the earlier report of Schuymacher & Associates stating: "furthermore all 35 buses leak fuel from the injectors because of a missing plug on all fuel tanks." Why did it take so long to realize that a 120-gallon bus tank needs a refill every 10 days not every 3-4 days like the T-buses demanded?

By Sept.1993 only 6 of the 35 buses had been modified, but according to Crey who keeps in contact with the busdrivers, although each bus has 2 sunroof vents, the forced-air ventilation modifications still don't work. BLUEBIRD is doing the modifications while the Northshore mechanics are doing the installations. Supposedly air is pushed throughout the bus, but according to drivers, it isn't working. One driver measured the heat in the driver's area at 300 degrees while it's very cold in the back of the bus. If pollution is the problem, why weren't buses modified in the driver's area where the diesels are located? If the drivers get dizzy, headaches and confused, what's to prevent an accident where children as well as drivers are killed?

As if to underscore the lack of concern for drivers (as well as young passengers on each bus) Carey showed me the July 1993 Bus Driver job summary. The only change is an addition under WORKING CONDITIONS: "Exposed to fuel and vehicle fumes and moderate to loud vehicle noises."

Carey has fought diligently for herself, has alerted Northshore drivers to the problems, has written to government officials including the governor about this problem, has attended Public Health hearings, has networked with other poisoned workers and remains tireless in her endeavors to publicize the problems of environmental illness-- hers and others. To exacerbate demands on her time, Carey now spends much time in the hospital with her mother who has terminal cancer.

Women are raised to be nurturers (not nurtured!) albeit Carey's fighting spirit has transcended her own illness and brought recognition to the MCS and poisoned worker community. Carey remains steadfast because she's learned that in unity there is strength. This writer believes Carey courageous because she refuses to be victimized by adversity and fights for her own and other worker's rights to a safe working environment.

How does the Dept. of Transportation remain uninvolved in this issue? Stay tuned! The **Industrial/Environmental Toxicology Project of the IWW** is working on the problems of the BLUEBIRD buses and we would like to hear from anyone with information on similar safety problems with school buses. Contact us at: **P. O. Box 20402 Seattle, Wash 98102 or (206) 367-0477 helchick@mead.u.washington.edu**



"THE EMPLOYEES ARE SMILING THIS MORNING. FIND OUT WHAT THE UNION'S BEEN UP TO."

COMPETITIVE

The percentage of value added during manufacturing that goes to labor is falling, according to World Bank data. Where U.S. and Canadian manufacturing workers both got about half the value added (the difference between the cost of raw materials and the sale price of the final product) in 1970, by 1990 Canadian workers were down to 45% and U.S. workers were below 40%. Mexican workers took an even worse hit over the two decades, falling from 40% to 23%.

Once this would have been denounced as an intensification of labor exploitation, but in these modern times we are asked to instead celebrate increased competitiveness. As we compete with fellow workers around the globe--striving mightily to drive ourselves and each other into the poor house--our employers compete too, to see who can rake in the most cash off our labor. It's clear that the bosses are a luxury we can no longer afford.

POVERTY KILLS The *Left Business Observer* #61 includes a table on deaths per 1,000 persons, ranked by race, sex and income.

While death rates for men are consistently higher than for women (and death rates for blacks higher than for whites), for each group death rates decline as people get richer.

Every year, about 19 of 1,000 Black men earning less than $9,000 a year die; among those earning more than $25,000 only 4 die. For white men the decline is from 16 deaths per 1,000 for the poor, to 2.5 per among those making more than $25,000.

This analysis, based on data from the *New England Journal of Medicine,* offers yet more proof that capitalism--and the poverty it creates--kills. Elsewhere in the same issue, the *LBO* reports that the U.S. is #1 among 12 industrialized nations in poverty.

A Letter

Hello !

I'm a member of the french section of the IWA : the Confederation Nationale du Travail (sorry for the "Nationale", "Generale" was stolen from us by the authoritative communists).

The current CNT's international secretary is in my section, so could you add me on any mailing-list you may have, and I'll just transmit to him... By the way, I didn't see the price for an overseas subscription to IW in it, so could you mail me that, too?

One last word: a bill just passed in France to enable the state to fund private (catholic) schools much more than it can do now, and a big demo is expected on the 16th of january. So could you gimme the contact of your educational federation, we'd like to gather info about churches, schools and public funding all over the world.

Ronan Charpentier
Federation Sante Social Education
Confederation Nationale du Travail
33, rue des Vignolles
75020 Paris France, Europe
<charp@valerian.ens.cachan.fr>

Attention Wobs, Rebs, Writers, and Readers

The **IW Working Group** is adjusting some operations to be more efficient. The major portion of pages will now be produced by members at **Chicago General Membership Branch**. Ottawa members will continue to participate as Branch editors, as will other Branch and topical editors.

Along with more work goes more responsibility; Chicago GMB will be the new **IW Coordinators**, receiving your letters, branch news, sundry articles and expressions of affection. Chicago members are in motion to continue upgrading the quality, stability, and effectiveness of IW as a vital medium of working class organization. To succeed they need your contributions, suggestions, articles, and input. You may also send material to any of the other editors.

The Chicago IW Coordinator address is:

IW Coordinator
4043 N. Ravenswood
#205
Chicago IL 60613

Tel: (708)549-4045
E-Mail: jditz@igc.apc.org

Ottawa GMB will remain involved with editing **Canada Labor News, Video/Movie/Music Reviews, and Women's Issues.** Please send your submissions within these new topic categories to the Ottawa address (left lower page 2.)

Our hard working Wobblies at **Madison GMB** are already mailing IW. Now they will process **subscriptions**, promote **circulation**, and work closely with delegates and distributors.(Address lower left page 2.)

Mailing Lists Wanted for Samples

If you know of unionists, workers, social activists, educators, or others who might be interested in reading Industrial Worker -- send their mailing addresses to **Madison GMB**. We'll send them a sample copy of IW, with an offer to subscribe and/or join the IWW. Big or small mailing lists welcome, if up-to-date.

May Day Greetings Wanted

Send your **May Day Greeting** for the May issue of IW, to **Chicago IW Coord.** The traditional May Day greeting gives exposure to your Branch or Shop, raises donations for IW, and expresses solidarity with May Day as a rallying date for all the working people of the world.

Here are some approximate guidelines for donations: $5: business-card size greeting; $10, 3"x5"; $25 and up, 5"x5". Make donations to Industrial Worker (Sustaining Fund), and mail them to the **Chicago IW Coordinators**, along with your Greetings.

* Your donations are forwarded to the IWW. * We are still sending you **IW Stickers** for donations, @ $1 per.

Toms-Trend Pulls Video From Hat (this time for sure!)

The film **Older Equals Bolder: Anarchist Elders** by noted Wobbly film maker zimya a. toms-trend, is being transferred to video. We expect the first 1/2" VHS copies sometime in March.

VHS cassette will be available from **IWW Lit**, at $32.50 postpaid ($27.50 for IWW members).

Video libraries and others interested in obtaining rental or retail rights, should contact IWW Lit (see page 11 for address).

Film maker zimya expresses her attitude that *Older=Bolder* belongs to all the IWW members, and she hopes Branches will feel free to show it as a local fundraiser.

February Black Labor History Month

The IWW is in solidarity with all workers of colour who organize to improve working and living conditions around the world. **Black/ Red/ Yellow/ White-- Workers of the World Unite!**

IWW Industrial Union Directory

FOREST WORKERS IU 120

IU120 Aardvark Sawmill Co. -David Everest, PO Box 54 Balfour BC V0G 1C0 Canada. (604)229-4978

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IU 330

IU330 Custom Wood Screen Doors Artisan Shop-Paul Kay, 606 Alamo Pintado #3262, Solvang CA 93463. (805)688-0123

PRINT & PUBLISHING WORKERS IU 450

IU450 Duplication/Copy Workers Network- 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143. (215)747-0855

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop -Merll Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd., Columbia SC 29201. (803)254-9398

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop -1334 Williamson, Madison WI 53703. (608)255-1800

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop -1921 Ashby Ave. Berkeley CA 94703. (510)549-0176

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop -2298 Clay, Denver CO 80211. (303)433-1852

IU450 Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop PO Box 20610, Seattle WA 98102. (206)726-5924

FOOD WORKERS IU 460

IU460 Fairhaven Co-operative Flour Mill Job Shop 1115 Railroad Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 500

Industrial Transportation Research & Organizing Project Arthur J. Miller, PO Box 5464 Tacoma WA 98415-0464

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS IU 510

IU510 West Coast MTW -- Sea Dive Job Shop Delegate: Colin Dewey 60 Walter St. San Francisco CA 94114. <patrice@crl.com>

EDUCATION WORKERS IU 620

IU620 Education WOB (Workers Organizing Bulletin)EWIU 620, PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045.<jbekken@igc.apc.org>

IU620 UCBerkeley Recyclers Job Branch 620 Eshleman, Berkeley CA 94720

ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS IU 630

IU630 General Organizing Committee Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St., Worcester MA 01609

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop -Delegate: Tina Gaffney (215)821-5622

IU630 Film Workers Organization- Miguel Sanchez, 1724 Westmoreland Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90006. (231)368-4604.

IU630 The Living Theatre Job Shop -PO Box 20180, New York NY 10009 - 8959. Tel: (212)865-3957 Fax: (212)865-3234

IU630 Musicians & Performing Artists Reference Library - Worcester Public Library, Salem Square, Worcester MA 01608

IU630 SF Bay Area Jazz Musicians' Service Organization (510)704-0234

IU630 Workers Stories & Workers Lives Job Shop c/o SE Michigan GMB, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn MI 48126

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION WORKERS IU 660

IU660 Jura Books Job Shop -110 Crystal St. Petersham, Sydney NSW, Australia

IU660 Time Tested Books Job Shop 1114 -- 21st. Street, Sacramento CA 95814. (916)447-5696

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books & Records Job Shop 112 S. 20th St. Philadelphia PA 19103. (215)569-2477

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IU 670

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor MI 48109. (313)763-6876

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Center Job Shop M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, Berkeley CA 94607.

IU670 Socialist Party USA Nat'l Office Job Shop 516 W. 25th St. #404, New York NY 10001.(212)691-0776.

Industrial Worker
the voice of industrial democracy

Articles may be submitted to any of the following editors:
IW Coordinator: 4043 N. Ravenswood #205, Chicago IL 60613. Tel: (708)549-4045
E-Mail: jditz@igc.apc.org
International & Book Reviews: PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045.
E-Mail: jbekken@igc.apc.org
Humor & Cartoons: Wage Slave World News Box 1217 Madison WI 53702
E-mail: huckkono@igc.apc.org
Denver IW Editors: 2412 E. Colfax, Denver CO 80206.
Toxics Editor: PO Box 20402, Seattle WA 98102. Tel: (206)367-0477.
E-Mail: helchick@mead.u.washington.edu
Canada Labor News, Video/Movie/Music Reviews, Women's Issues: PO Box 4217, Stn E, Ottawa ON K1S 5B2 Canada.
Tel: (613) 231-2922.
E-Mail: indwrk@web.apc.org
Feature Articles Planning: Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn MI 48126.
Tel: (313) 581-2065
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Info: (415)863-WOBS.

IWW Directory

Job Shop: IWW organized workplace. GMB: General Membership Branch. IU: Industrial Union. Delegate: member who collects dues and signs up new members.

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES: Jura Books -110 Crystal St, Petersham, Sydney, NSW

Sydney Area Group -Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

VICTORIA: Melbourne Area Group-POB 1738Q GPO Melbourne, 3001.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA: SE BC Group-POB 54, Balfour,V0G 1C0. David Everest 604/229-4978

MANITOBA: Winnipeg GMB - B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO:Ottawa GMB-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2. 613/231-2922

Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 *Meets 1st Thurs. of month 7 pm; phone for location.*

UNITED KINGDOM

IWW British Organizing Committee-F.Lee,Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate Leicester LE1 1WB. Tel: 0533-661835

Swindon/Bristol/Oxford GMB Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman St. Swindon, Wilts SN2 1HA

York -Delegate: D.Czunys, 13 Wolsley,York Y01 5BQ.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Berkeley:

Berkeley Recycling Ctr IU670 Job Shop - M. Carlstroem 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

New Earth Press IU450 Job Shop-1921 Ashby Av. 94703. D.Karoly(510)549-0176

UCBerkeley Recyclers IU620 Branch- 620 Eshleman, 94720. Del: Daniel Widener.

IWW Local 1/Mendocino-Humboldt GMB-Delegates:Judi Bari, POB 656 Willits 95490(msg:707/468-1660); Herb Jager 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/937-3457).

Los Angeles Area GMB- Meets every 2nd & 4th Sunday. For Location call:(213)368-4604 (24hr). Del: Andrew Willett 1136 Arbor Dell Rd. 90041.

Film Workers Organization-Miguel Sanchez, 1724 Westmoreland Blvd. Los Angeles 90006. (231)368-4604.

Sacramento- Time Tested Books IU660-1114 21st St, 95814. 916/447-5696

San Diego Group - RMR Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon CA 92020. 619/460-2907

Santa Cruz GMB-PO Box 534, 95061.

San Francisco:

SF Bay Area GMB-1095 Market St. #204, 94103. 415/863-WOBS

West Coast Marine Transport Workers IU510 Colin Dewey, 60 Walter St., 94114. 415/864-6037.

COLORADO: Denver:

Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax, 80206. (303)388-1065 *Office hrs Sat.9-12. Meets 1st Thur.@month 7pm* Del:Cliff Sundstrom, 910 E 8th Ave #202, 80218. (303)832-7602. Brendan Ruiz,PO Box 370663, 80237-0663.

P&L Printing IU450 Job Shop- 2298 Clay, 80211. 303/433-1852

FLORIDA: J. Lewis, 345 Ocean Dr. #1103, Miami Beach 33139

GEORGIA: Atlanta Group - 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243

HAWAII: O'ahu Group: PO Box 11928 Honolulu HI 96822

IDAHO: Boise Group-W.Cohan, PO Box 822, Caldwell ID 83606.

ILLINOIS: Chicago GMB -New World Resource Ctr 1476 Irving Park, 60613. 312/549-5045. *Meets 1st Friday 7:30 pm.*

LOUISIANA: Baton Rouge Group- Del: Steve Donahue 729 Bungalow Lane 70802. (504)389-9572.

MARYLAND: Baltimore GMB -R.Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060. 301/367-3024

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor Tenants Union IU670 Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

SE Mich. GMB- Delegates:Albert Parsons 313/769-0695; Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn 48126. 313/581-2065

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Duluth Group-1514 N. 8th Av.E, 55805. Del: Jack Rosenquist

MISSISSIPPI: Gulfport Group-C.G.Streuly 601/896-3515

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NEW JERSEY:Paterson Group-POB 8532 Haledon 07508. Matt Bolton 201/790-3076

NEW YORK: Capital District Group-POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627

Central NY Group- PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045

NY GMB-Delegates: Brian Mahoney 1717 N.Thompson Dr, Bay Shore NY 11706 (516/586-2103); Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box158-B, Hartwick13348.(607/293-6489)

The Living Theatre IU630 Job Shop-POB 20180 NYC 10009--8959. (212)865-3234

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PENNSYLVANIA: Lancaster Group-PO Box 2084, 17608

Boulevard Bingo IU630 Job Shop-Tina Gaffney 215/821-5622.

Lehigh Valley GMB-POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018.(215)253-5057.J.Kelly(215)866-5728.

Reading Group-PO Box 8468, 19603. Del:Dennis Good (215)921-2459; Rick Page (215)562-3487

Philadelphia:

Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. (215)747-0855.

Temple University IWW Group-2106 N. Broad St. 19122. Anthony Newkirk (215)765-3511.

Wooden Shoe Books & Records IU660 Job Shop - 112 S. 20th St, Philadelphia 19103. 215/569-2477.

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TEXAS: Austin Group - PO Box 49523, 78765. 512/416-9619

UTAH: Salt Lake Group - Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT: Burlington Group- Anne Petermann, Orin Langelle POBox 804, 05402. 802/658-2403

WASHINGT0N: Industrial Transport Research & Organizing -Arthur J.Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415--0464

Seattle- Industrial/Environmental Toxicology-POB 20402, Seattle 98102. Stan Anderson 206/367-0477.

Street of Crocodiles Letter Press IU450 Job Shop- PO Box 20610, Seattle 98102. 206/726-5924

WEST VIRGINIA: Del: Rick Wilson, 1019 2nd St.W., Huntington 25701

WISCONSIN: Lakeside Press IU450 Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. 608/255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Madison GMB-Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Anti-Nuke Wobbly Maxina Ventura Organizing for Women's Rights in Prison

by Harry Siitonen

Hiroshima Day, Aug.6, 1993, proved eventful for 2 Northern California anti-nuclear activists, IWW member Maxina Ventura of Berkeley and Susan Crane, a Ukiah teacher.

Accompanied by pamphleteers, the two began the morning with shadow painting on the property of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore CA. This lab is a primary heavy hitter nationally in nuclear warfare design and production, and has produced widespread toxic and radioactive contamination in neighboring communities.

Since 1960 LLNL's known airborne releases of tritium have totalled about 750,000 curies. Dr. John Goffman, former associate director at the lab, estimates these releases caused 120 cancers and 60 cancer deaths in Livermore. While a host of PR flacks at LLNL have been talking about "greening" and conversion to peacetime work at the facility, the reality is contained in the Dept. of Energy's request for a 1994 budget for the lab. Of at total $708.3 million, the part earmarked for atomic energy "defense" activities is $607.2 million.

Max and Sue's shadow painting was to protest this environmental rape and human threat, to memorialize the 1945 holocaust at Hiroshima, and to increase awareness of lab workers about the dangerous effects of their labor to themselves and to the community. As readers may recall, many victims of the atom bombing at Hiroshima were so totally vaporized that the only traces remaining were "shadows" on the ground and against fences. Max and Sue's symbols harked back to that time.

The 2 women were arrested that morning, and spent 4 days in solitary in Santa Rita jail, heavily manacled and handcuffed because they refused to answer this question: "Are you lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual?"

Their answers of "None of your business," and "It's a private matter," brought this barbaric response from the authorities.

The court trial before Judge Joseph "Mad Dog" Hurley gave the defendants no chance. They were described as "vandals" and the Livermore lab was the "victim." They were told their damage to the property cost LLNL about $550 to clean up the shadows. Max and Sue were not allowed to say that the real damage caused by LLNL would take $8.8 billion to clean up the groundwater, plus the costs of cancer to area families. Testimony was confined to whether or not they had done the shadow painting.

60 Days

The unprecedented severity of the sentence took both women by surprise - 60 days at Santa Rita jail!

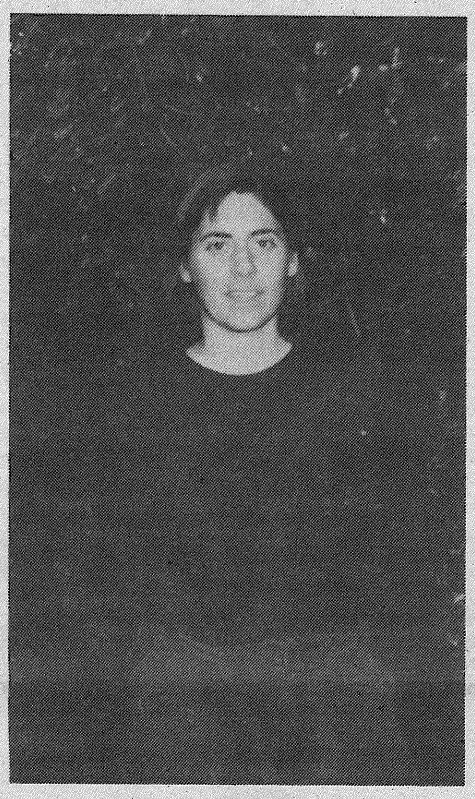
Max described the cold, sterile inhumanity of the prison to me. It is bereft of any comfortable furnishings which consist of steel tables and benches and bunks. Walls are of concrete where sounds echo day and night. There is no privacy. Prisoners are watched through one-way windows. Conversations among inmates are subject to eavesdropping via intercoms. Two prisoners will be engaged in private conversation and a prison tech worker will burst in on their exchange over the intercom letting them know their every word has been heard.

Everybody is always getting sick. Max says that people in jail age ten years faster than usual. The Santa Rita facilities are chilling and physically debilitating. There is lack of sunlight, fresh air or exercise, the food is bad, and the emotional stress of confinement is constant. Medical care is a bad joke. Hemorrhoids are common as the only seating is on steel benches. Back problems are a major concern.

Although the diet is atrocious, one thing in ample supply is candy from candy machines. So there is plenty of sugar to overdose on and keep the prisoners in a depressed, more easily controlled state, a point not lost on the authorities.

Max, always the activist even in jail, made solitary again in a protest against the bad diet. She had come to prison with a medical condition, brought along her own prescribed medications and a letter from her doctor delineating her dietary requirements. The letter was ignored. Since she can't handle bread or sugar, the main staples of the prison diet, her own diet consisted mainly of green beans and lettuce.

Despite the prison-wise skepticism of her jailmates, Max filed a series of written grievances, using the "system" to try and get a compatible diet. She tried to talk to guards and medical personnel, to no avail. So Max tried a time-tested direct action technique: she declared a



fast. Result? Again, solitary!

The word got to outside, and community support groups pressured prison authorities on her behalf, as did her doctor. So prison bureaucrats responding to these political pressures, grudgingly allowed her a magnificent dietary regimen based on rice and beans. Max concluded her fast and was allowed back into the general population of "medium security."

Her gutsy successful campaign earned the respect of other prisoners, the great majority of whom were Black or Latina women and mostly imprisoned for drug use and prostitution. They were impressed at what can be accomplished with persistent community support.

This then set the stage for Max's organizing campaign behind bars on behalf of her fellow inmates. In a casual conversation with a sister prisoner, Max learned that the women are being denied requests for AIDS testing, even where stipulated by court order. There is virtually no AIDS education available for a high risk jail population involved with needles and sexual activities while on the street.

They were told "for their own good" by prison medical staff that it would be best not to take the HIV test -- that once someone was established as HIV positive, they would be the prey of every cop on the street -- as soon as they were arrested again for hooking, they could be charged with murder.

Max pointed out that this was not how the law read; that only if you intentionally infected someone with AIDS would you be charged for attempted murder. The only reason for this puzzling denial by the authorities Max could figure out was money, the cost of testing and the higher costs of subsequent medical treatment.

Max herself ideally favors anonymous testing as done on the outside, these women would put themselves into the public spotlight with prison testing. Yet Max supports a woman's right to have her testing request honored. At least it would identify a problem for some kind of treatment, however inadequate. But there needs to be a follow-up program of medical and counselling assistance for HIV positives in prison. This, Max says, needs to be followed on their release with strong community programs with multi-faceted systems to steer women to options other than the lifestyles and activities of the street. But this ideal does not exist yet, and can only be attained by organization by community groups along with the women involved.

Death Warrant

Incidentally, in this age of "privatization," to serve the modern utopia of "market economy," health services to Santa Rita jail are provided by a private corporation called "Prison Health Services." They have a $9.8 million "sweetheart" contract with the County of Alameda to Santa Rita and North County jails. The level of health service is abysmal and a woman with AIDS receiving a 6 month sentence is virtually awarded a death warrant.

As far as the needs of the prisoners are concerned, it seems to make little difference whether the provider of record is a state prison medical bureaucracy or a "private sector" entity. They both suck.

So Max was motivated to do something about it. She got several prison friends to agree to press interviews which she would arrange with contacts outside, to plead their case for AIDS testing and education. Initially reluctant to step into the spotlight, knowing they could incur the wrath of prison deputies, several of these street- and jail-wise women agreed to come forward. The phone and in-person interviews received coverage in several San Francisco East Bay newspapers and on the radio. Max was pleased with the determination of these women to seek empowerment by protesting their conditions. Yet this was only the first step.

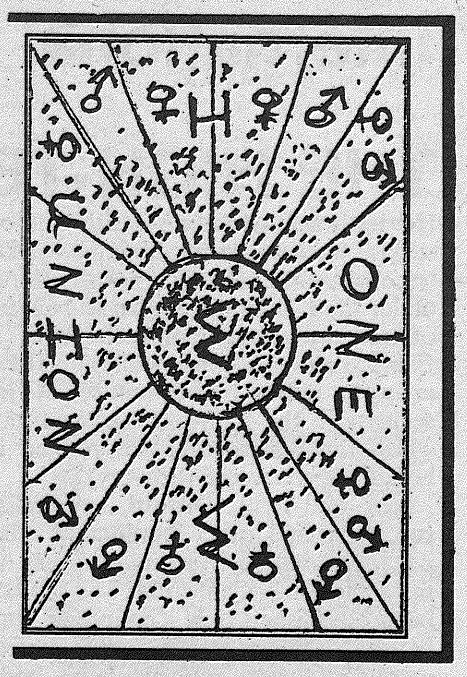
After 41 days Max and Sue were released. Max promised her new prison friends she would organize support in the AIDS project, and she is busy building and networking to establish a support group in the East Bay. A big public meeting is planned to springboard the issue.

San Francisco City and County already has a program with lesbian, gay and bisexual groups such as Act-Up making an impact in SF's more progressive political climate. Max is working with people like Judy Greenspan of Act Up, to help women in places like Santa Rita.

Max Ventura certainly has an activist's credentials. Thirty years old, she has been an activist since age 15, working to help the homeless in her native Los Angeles. In the Bay Area for the past 8 years, she's not only involved with anti-nuke work at Livermore, but is also part of the Global Peace Farmers of Berkeley doing such neat projects as climbing the fence at Concord Naval Weapons Supply Depot to plant flowers -- seeds to celebrate life rather than the savagery of war.

Besides her affiliation with the Industrial Workers of the World, Max, a professional life model, is raising her workplace standards through activism in the Bay Area Models Guild. It certainly is refreshing to see a young person like Maxina Ventura so passionately involved in trying to make the world a better place to live in for all of us, while so many of her generation are selfishly involved in the pursuit of a fast buck or immobilized in cynicism or despair. Right on, Max!

Wobblies



AROUND OUR UNION

IWW Happenings

Fellow Wobblies at **Ogden, Utah** were set up with a Lit table to welcome **Utah Phillips** to town in mid-January--Ogden Wobs have been busy lately on the Van Heusen campaign, helping out with Food Not Bombs (Salt Lake City), and they recently commemorated FW Joe Hill in the state where he was executed.

Denver GMB is holding a benefit concert for their bookstore, May 1 at the **Mercury Cafe**. Venue includes a rock band.

IU630's Jim Barclay is making discreet sounds about a couple of IWW music/spoken word cassettes he wants to record. Wanna go on record for the Wobblies? Contact FW Barclay (see address page 2).

L.A. Wobs are making an effort to organize the retail sector. A delegate notes that retail workers often move around from job to job, so it makes more sense to organize industrially, rather than by each workplace.

Also in Los Angeles, a blacklist has been put in effect by a number of retail stores. The management at **Aron's Records**, where an IWW election was recently held, passed the names of Union supporters to local retail bosses.

L.A. has been the scene of almost nightly demonstrations at the Mexican embassy. Sources there estimate Chiapas deaths around 3,000 (Jan13).

Iranian immigrant and refugee groups joined **Ottawa GMB** members in delivering a letter of human rights concerns to the Mexican Embassy Jan.20.

Anybody Read Dutch?

Nieuwe Strijd is being received at IWW Ottawa. It looks like a fine paper but we can't read it. It comes from Rotterdam. If anyone wants to receive it and translate for IW, let us know.

Pamphlets are now available from the **Philadelphia GMB.** Titles include:
Anarchism and the Black Revolution
by Lorenzo Kom'Boa Ervin (100 p)
The Methods of Anarchosyndicalism
by Rudolf Rocker
The Objectives of Anarchosyndicalism
by Rudolf Rocker
Slaves Yesterday, Slaves Today:
a comparative reader
The Physiognomy of the Anarchists
by Cesare Lombroso
Direct Action and the Heart of Angiolillo
by Voltairine de Cleyre
Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers
by Martin Glaberman

IWW Labor History Calendar Best Ever

More and more dates including many from recent history -- glancing at this calendar through the year is an educational short course on the international labor movement. Photos are great with just representation of women and people of color, and spanning the century from the 'teens to the 'nineties. A beautiful piece of work, order a copy or five if you haven't already (see page 11).

International Notes

More International News on Page 9 -->

THE HIGH-TECH JOBS MACHINE

Hewlett-Packard Labs recently laid-off several workers, prompting one worker to compare the severance terms offered under their "voluntary" plan to benefits offered by other high-tech firms in California's Silicon Valley. These excerpts indicate the nature of **job security** in the **high-tech sector** (upon which the government has pinned its hopes for economic recovery).

In mid-1989, **Olivetti**, an Italian computer and office equipment company, decided to close its research lab in Menlo Park, California. The lab had been established only a couple of years before. One morning, a bus arrived carrying Olivetti officials (with bodyguards). They entered the facility and told everyone --researchers, managers, support staff --that they had 24 hours to clear out their offices and leave.

In October 1991, **XSoft**, a software development subsidiary of Xerox, carried out a "redeployment." 65 engineers were told they had 30 days to find new jobs within Xerox or leave the company. However, there were very few jobs available internally to find and almost all the laid-off employees ended up on the streets. Recently, **Digital Equipment** Corporation carried out a series of staff reductions in several R&D organizations in Palo Alto. In one of the more drastic reductions, the 200 employees of DEC's Western Systems Engineering facility were informed in December, 1991, that the organization was being eliminated so they needed to find new jobs within DEC or elsewhere.

Most recently, in August, 1993, **Apple Computer** announced a layoff of computer engineers at its main Cupertino facility. Rumors of imminent layoffs had been rampant, but management lent no credence to them. One day, all engineers in the targeted organizations were given appointments to meet with their manager the next day. There, some employees were told they were being laid off. Laid off workers were asked to turn in employee badges immediately, and were given an hour or two to clean out their cubicles. They were then given special badges that admitted them to a building where job-hunting services were available.

Elsewhere, **IBM Germany** plans to eliminate 6000 jobs by the end of 1995, or 25% of its current work force. **Bull** has announced restructuring plans which will cost 2500 jobs. 1000 people have already left "more or less" voluntarily. The remaining 1500 jobs will be cut in 1994. And Germany's **Software AG** workers are organizing a works council to protect their interests against the will of the bosses. This is one major success of the **"Netzwerk Arbeitswelt Informatik,"** a group consisting of 70 members working in over 30 companies. (contact: **NAI, c/o BTQ e.V., Akazienweg 22, D-34117 Kassel, Germany**)

Back in the U.S., Digital Equipment will continue its job cuts in 1994. PC software pioneer **Software Publishing** laid off 140 workers, or 21% of its workforce last September. Cuts hit the telecom sector hard: **Pacific Bell** recently announced 10,000 more job cuts by 1997; this on top of an 11,000-job cut that started in 1992. New technologies, according to the company, will enable it to expand information highway-related services while using fewer workers. After the cuts, Pac Bell will have half the employees it had at the time of the Ma Bell breakup. **ATT** is expected to cut about 4,500 people from its consumer communications division. **Southern New England Telecommunications** announced layoffs of 1,500 employees (14% of its workforce) beginning in January. **BellSouth** announced cuts of 2,200 more jobs, on top of 8,000 jobs killed last year. **US West** announced last September it was cutting 9,000 jobs, **Bell Atlantic** announced cuts of 6,000 in 1992, and **NYNEX** said it was cutting 9,000 jobs in 1991. **GTE California** is laying off 514 in March.

Will there be unemployed shanty-towns along the information highway?

HOW BIG IS YOURS? John Sculley's severance package from Apple included: $1 million, plus $1.5 million in salary and bonuses for 1993; a one-year consulting job paying $750,000; purchasing Sculley's upscale home at "fair market value," purchasing Sculley's Lear 55 jet, and paying moving costs back to Greenwich, Conn. Apple also agreed to let Sculley exercise stock options valued at $2.42 million.

Learning About Capitalism:

HEWLETT-PACKARD has ended a "foreign trainee program" after "trainees" complained. Under a U.S. Information Agency "cultural exchange program", H-P brought 100 programmers from India and China, and a few from Russia. Some Russian programmers complained they were not getting paid enough for the $35--$60,000 a year jobs they were doing. Their pay: air fare, lodging, a bus pass, and $25 a day. *excerpted from CPU: Working in the Computer Industry #7. Online subscriptions available at no cost by emailing* listserv@cpsr.org *with a blank subject and a single line in the body of the message:* SUBSCRIBE CPSR-CPU <your first name> <your last name> *CPU is a project of the "Working in the Computer Industry" working group of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility Berkeley Chapter.*

SWEDISH UNEMPLOYED PROTEST

An estimated 30,000 workers gathered outside the Swedish parliament building Dec.15 to protest unemployment --currently at 14% and rising --and government proposals to cut benefits to people without work. Inside parliament, the center-right coalition voted through a controversial package of tax increases for workers including an obligatory unemployment insurance equal to 2% of workers' wages.

The demonstration was one of the largest in Stockholm for 2 decades. "They are taking away everything from the poor. We can't allow this to go on," said Anna-Lena Soderstrom, an unemployed metal worker.

The government also plans to dilute Sweden's labor laws, which currently force employers to operate a first-in, last-out principle in lay-offs. New proposals would allow companies to sidestep that requirement.

COSATU Faces 'Internal Crisis'

Despite progress on several fronts, the Congress of South African Trade Unions is in the grip of organizational crisis according to the authoritative *SA Labour Bulletin.* It warns of divisions within the federation's leadership and among its membership.

The placement of 20 top union leaders onto the ANC's election list for parliament appears to be contributing to the difficulties. There is also considerable tension between Cosatu and its main political allies, the ANC and SACP, over restrictions on strikes included in the new constitution.

On the positive side are wage and organizing gains by municipal and teaching affiliates after strike action. On the negative side, says the *Labour Bulletin,* unions made "virtually no progress" towards co-determination or democratizing the workplace, with the exception of (electricity monopoly) Eskom.

Meanwhile, unionized workers achieved their lowest wage increases since 1988, with the average hike for skilled workers (9%) dropping under the inflation rate, says the Labour Research Service.

VW Cuts Work Week

The IG Metall Union accepted Volkswagen's demand for a cut in the work week from 5 days to 4 or face massive layoffs Nov.25. VW workers will receive a substantial cut in pay along with the shortened work week.

German manufacturers have found a new way to chip away at workers' standard of living. Instead of eliminating jobs to cut labor costs, they cut pay and work hours. VW's 100,000 workers will now work a four-day 28.8-hour week at 80% of their former pay. Monthly pay checks will look the same, but workers will lose vacation and holiday bonuses. They'll also lose a 3.5% wage raise that was due to start Nov.1.

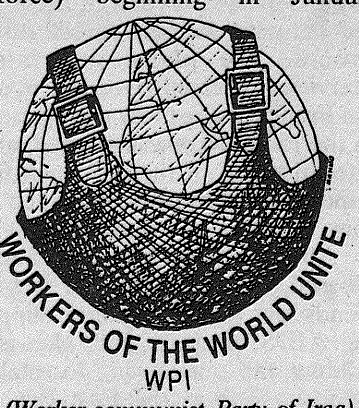
Rebel workers have long demanded shorter hours --both to give us more free time in which to live our lives and to fight unemployment as our productivity gains make it possible for workers to produce more in less time. But there is no reason to agree to pay cuts --we have more than earned the free time by the speed-up in the pace of our work.

CUBAN DISSIDENTS REJECT WASHINGTON/MIAMI Bosses

The crumbling Cuban economy and the government's efforts to open its economy to capitalist investment while retaining its political grip have opened some small spaces for internal dissent. Rolando Prats Paez of the Havana-based Democratic Socialist Current (CSD) recently managed to place an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* calling for the lifting of the US embargo of Cuba. Prats says the CSD stands for "ni Castrismo ni MasCanismo" --that they reject the autocracies of both Fidel Castro and his rightist arch-rival. Their literature is produced and copied entirely by typewriter, but CSD refuses to accept support from foreign governments. In 1991, CSD members launched the General Cuban Workers Union UGTC to provide support for workers in dispute with state managers. Within a year, UGTC leadership was hijacked by a group working with the Cuban American National Foundation and the American Institute for Free (sic) Labor Development. But CSD members would have none of it, they spilt and formed the UGTC-I. The I stands for Independent. Independent from what? "The United States government," chuckles Rolando Prats.

The UGTC-I continues to exist as an alternative to official, state-controlled workers' organizations, though it is small and marginalized. Prats calls it an "auxiliary force for groups trying to open a political space in Cuba." The CSD can best be reached through their Miami contact: **Tony Santiago, 1040 SW 27th Ave., Miami FL 33135.** (info from *On Gogol Boulevard.*)





(Worker-communist Party of Iraq)

MAQUILADORA SUPPORT NETWORK

The Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network is attempting to develop a long-term response to the health and safety needs of the 550,000 workers in 2,100 maquiladora assembly plants along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Composed of members of the Committees for Occupational Safety and Health, and American Public Health Association, the network consists of occupational health and safety professionals and activists who can provide information and technical assistance on workplace hazards and protective measures to organizations on the border and workers themselves.

Network members, including industrial hygienists, occupational physicians and nurses and health educators, are donating their time and expertise in an effort to improve workers' health and safety in the maquiladora assembly plants along the border.

Maquiladora workers face a wide variety of workplace hazards in industrial plants with widely differing conditions. Terms of employment include 48 hour work-weeks (although 54 to 60 hours is common) and average wages of US$1 an hour. After taxes, a standard 6-day, 48-hour week yields less than US$40 take-home pay. The majority of maquiladora workers are young women, many single mothers, often supporting their parents or siblings as well.



Health and safety resources available to maquiladora workers are scarce at best. There are few independent unions in the maquiladoras and little, if any, government enforcement of existing health and safety regulations. Furthermore, many even poorer people arrive regularly from the countryside willing to work under any conditions and for any pay.

On the environmental side, few plants have any waste treatment facilities. A common sight in the maquiladora industrial parks along the border are industrial discharges simply piped out to the fence line and dumped into adjacent canals or rivers. Maquiladora workers in cities along the border are working with community organizations on the Mexican side and support groups on the U.S. side, to increase their knowledge and understanding of hazards in their workplaces and how these hazards can be eliminated or reduced.

For more information, or to join the Support Network, contact **Garrett Brown, 2520 Hilgard Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709. (510)845-0215.**

PROBLEMS AT WORK?

Contact the **Wobblies**, a member-run labor union

Low Dues. Real Democracy. No Bureaucrats.

POLISH SYNDICALISTS:

Revolutionary Syndicalist Action (ARS) is a new syndicalist organization. Its founding declaration asserts that "Liberation of work is a condition for freedom. That is why the work of the ARS is the popular enfranchisement of workers, understood here to mean the unconditional takeover and ownership of shops by the workers. Along with that, we strive to eliminate the government bureaucracy and the control that it maintains over the majority of our society. We also act against the stealing of the national wealth by the nomenclature, creating the capitalist system at the cost of everyone else...These goals can only be reached through direct action--general strikes and other revolutionary activities aimed at the prevailing system..." (excerpted from *On Gogol Boulevard,* in the Winter 1994 *Anarchy.*)

Mexican Peasants Rise Up!

The North American Free Trade Agreement officially went into effect January 1st, and Mexican peasants in the southern state of Chiapas greeted the new year with an armed rebellion against misery and exploitation—and against an agreement they believe can only worsen their plight.

In Chiapas, as throughout the world, most people live from hand to mouth, growing the food they eat and building the houses in which they live. As capitalism has encroached on their villages and farmland life has gotten progressively more difficult. Chiapas' peasants took up arms to demand an end to encroachments on their land and natural resources, access to education and health services, democratic reforms and a new North American trade deal which--instead of causing more hardships for the already super-exploited Mexican workers--would raise their wages to U.S. levels.

Chiapas may well be Mexico's poorest and most backward region. The government has tried to modernize its economy by encouraging more "efficient" agriculture—which in practice means displacing traditional subsistence farming for highly capitalized, export-oriented agriculture. In the process, Chiapas' Indians and peasants have been pushed aside, left to eke out a meager existence on the margins of the new economy.

To the "Zapatistas," NAFTA represents an entrenchment and acceleration of the kind of economic "development" that has left them landless and poor. Many fear it will flood Mexico with cheap agribusiness-produced food against which small-scale Mexican farmers can't compete. Indians say the government is attacking their rights to communal lands in order to satisfy NAFTA demands to facilitate international investment.

From the point of view of Mexico's politicians, the switch to modern agriculture represents economic progress and opportunities to grow cash crops to sell on world markets. To the peasant farmers of Chiapas, however, it means ruin and starvation.

The Mexican government's economic "reforms" have created a burgeoning middle class and helped make a dozen entrepreneurs into billionaires. Foreign investment on the Mexico stock exchange almost doubled last year to over $72 billion, though stock prices tumbled as the rebellion spread. Investors worry that the unrest might spread to the millions of Mexicans whose meager living standards have been devastated by "free market" policies which have sent real wages plummeting, destroyed many Mexican industries, and now threaten to drive millions of peasants off the land and onto the unemployment rolls. "The political status quo in Mexico died on Jan. 1," according to the business paper *El Financiero*. "Every Mexican institution is now in a state of crisis."

Regardless of the final outcome of the insurrection, Mexican workers will continue to face grinding exploitation on their jobs. And as U.S. and other transnational firms increase their already substantial presence in the Mexican economy, these fellow workers will increasingly find themselves working (or not working) for the same bosses as those of us north of the Mexican border.

Several U.S. unionists have joined efforts to organize genuine unions at the hundreds of U.S.-run maquiladora plants along the U.S.-Mexican border. Maquila workers are paid starvation wages, impoverishing workers on both sides of the border. For example, workers at a Zenith plant in Reynosa receive $33 dollars for a 45-hour work week.

Union protests in the U.S. and Mexico recently won reinstatement of six of 11 Mexican workers fired by General Electric for union activity within days of NAFTA's approval. The workers were members of the Authentic Labor Front (F.A.T.), an independent (of the government) labor federation. They worked at the Compania Armandora electric motor plant in Ciudad Juarez, which is across the border from El Paso.

The question of whether U.S. and Canadian workers will work for the starvation wages presently being inflicted upon our Mexican fellow workers, or whether Mexican wages will rise to a less inhuman level (though having to sell one's life for wages is intrinsically inhuman) will not be decided by the politicians or, in the final analysis, by the financiers. Rather it will be decided by the workers ourselves—whether on the land or in industry. If we resist, if we join together to wage a common struggle against our common exploiters, we will win. If we allow ourselves to be divided—divided by trade, by industry, or by national boundaries—we will inevitably be played off against each other and defeated. The choice is ours.

EZLN Statement

Today We Say Enough is Enough!

The following is from the declaration by the Zapatista National Liberation Army from the Lacandon jungle :

TO THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO:
MEXICAN BROTHERS & SISTERS:

We are a product of 500 years of struggle: first against slavery, then during the War of Independence against Spain led by insurgents, then to avoid being absorbed by North American imperialism, then to promulgate our constitution and expel the French empire from our soil, and later the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz denied us the just application of the Reform laws and the people rebelled and leaders like Villa and Zapata emerged, poor men just like us. We have been denied the most elemental preparation so they can use us as cannon fodder and pillage the wealth of our country. They don't care that we have nothing, absolutely nothing, not even a roof over our heads, no land, no work, no health care, no food nor education. Nor are we able to freely and democratically elect our political representatives, nor is there independence from foreigners, nor is there peace nor justice for ourselves and our children.

But today, we say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. We are the inheritors of the true builders of our nation. The dispossessed, we are millions and we thereby call upon our brothers and sisters to join this struggle as the only path, so that we will not die of hunger due to the insatiable ambition of a 70 year dictatorship led by a clique of traitors that represent the most conservative and sell-out groups. They are the same ones that opposed Hidalgo and Morelos, the same ones that betrayed Vicente Guerrero, the same ones that sold half our country to the foreign invader, the same ones that imported a European prince to rule our country, the same ones that formed the "scientific" Porfirsta dictatorship, the same ones that opposed the Petroleum Expropriation, the same ones that massacred the railroad workers in 1958 and the students in 1968, the same ones the today take everything from us, absolutely everything.

To prevent the continuation of the above and as our last hope, after having tried to utilize all legal means based on our Constitution, we go to our Constitution, to apply Article 39 which says: "National Sovereignty essentially and originally resides in the people. All political power emanates from the people and its purpose is to help the people. The people have, at all times, the inalienable right to alter or modify their form of government."

Therefore, according to our constitution, we declare the following to the Mexican federal army, the pillar of the Mexican dictatorship that we suffer from, monopolized by a one-party system and led by Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the maximum and illegitimate federal executive that today holds power.

According to this Declaration of War, we ask that other powers of the nation advocate to restore the legitimacy and the stability of the nation by overthrowing the dictator.

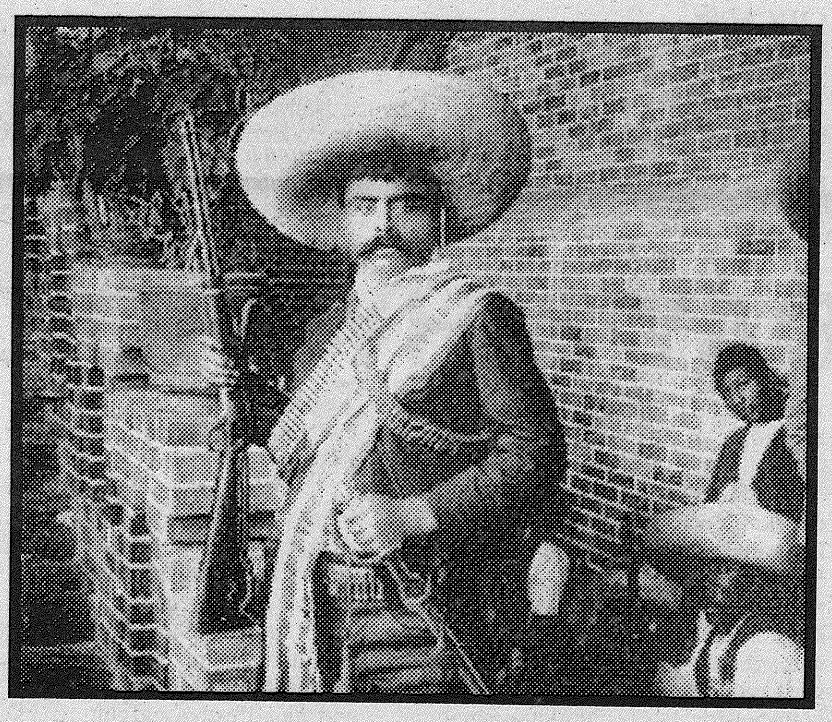
We also ask that international organizations and the International Red Cross watch over and regulate our battles, so that our efforts are carried out while still protecting our civilian population. We declare now and always that we are subject to the Geneva Accord, forming the EZLN as our fighting arm of our liberation struggle. We have the Mexican people on our side, we have the beloved tri-colored flag highly respected by our insurgent fighters. We use black and red in our uniform as our symbol of our working people on strike...

Beforehand, we refuse any effort to disgrace our just cause by accusing us of being drug traffickers, drug guerrillas, thieves, or other names that might by used by our enemies. Our struggle follows the constitution which is held high by its call for justice and equality. ...

To the People of Mexico: We, the men and women, full and free, are conscious that the war that we have declared is our last resort, but also a just one. The dictators are applying an undeclared genocidal war against our people for many years. Therefore we ask for your participation, your decision to support this plan that struggles for work, land, housing, food, health care, education, independence, freedom, democracy, justice and peace. We declare that we will not stop fighting until the basic demands of our people have been met by forming a government of our country that is free and democratic.

JOIN THE INSURGENT FORCES OF THE ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY

General Command of the EZLN



Zapata

The Ottawa, Ontario Branch of the IWW organized a rally which delivered the following statement to the Mexican embassy:

To the Government of Mexico through its Canadian Ambassador:

Since January 1, the government of Mexico is massacring the indigenous and poor peasants which were opposing NAFTA. According to the mass media, the Zapatista National Liberation Front, including 2,000 peasants, were some brigands who were going to kill people in the cities, so the government suppressed the revolt.

The NAFTA brings profits for large multinational companies, but destroys natural patterns of economic activity, causing poverty and disruption of communities throughout North America.

We recognize the direct connection between NAFTA policies and unemployment; loss of traditional lands by indigenous peoples and small farmers; destruction of forests and waterways; intolerable living and working conditions; and abandonment of the constitutional government; all of which left our brothers and sisters of Chiapas, no alternative but to rise up in desperation.

1. We persist in demanding the immediate withdrawal of military forces from Chiapas and a stop to this brutal human butchery.
2. We call on the government to stop the political, economic, and military abuse of indigenous peoples, peasant farmers and workers.
3. We demand that human rights be respected in Chiapas. An injury to any Mexican person is felt by us, as an injury to all.
4. We require that indigenous peoples and poor farmers in Mexico be treated according to the rule: "The land belongs to who is working on it."
5. Workers be paid enough for a decent living with dignity, and allowed to freely organize Unions for collective bargaining.
6. We demand that the Mexican government immediately state the true events and the true number of people killed by its military forces in Chiapas since January 1. The number we have heard is around 3,000.

Further we demand an investigation of Chiapas officials and landowners, with those responsible for abusing the people brought to trial.

In Solidarity with Mayan and all Mexican Peoples,

Organized by Ottawa Branch, Industrial Workers of the World. Sponsored by: Iranian Refugee and Immigrant Workers Association (Ottawa), Democratic Community of Iranian Refugees and Immigrants (Ottawa), International Federation of Iranian Refugees and Immigrants Councillor (Ottawa)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
AGAINST HYDRO-QUEBEC APRIL 14TH
Resistance Planned for HQ's 50th Anniversary

To counter Hydro-Quebec's (Quebec's provincial utitity company) 50th anniversay, the Native Forest Network (NFN) has called for international actions on Thursday, April 14th. Plans are underway for rallies/actions in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco in the U.S., Montreal in Canada and other cities in Europe and Australia.

From a provincial corporation to a multinational that now consults in India, China, Guyana and elsewhere, HQ is leaving a legacy of mega hydro electric projects that is having disasterous effects on many of the indigenous people of Quebec and the sensitive ecological areas that have been impacted. Some call it eco-genocide.

Additionally, not much is known about the workers during the first stages of the LaGrande Project. IWW and NFN organizers, Anne Petermann and Orin Langelle visited the James and Hudson Bay region and witnessed the devastation to the land and the people. They were also trying to compile facts about those who built the dams of LaGrande. "We're still trying to find out," Langelle says, "and the PR people from HQ we talked to were pretty hush hush. HQ said there were some 'injuries', but refused to get specific. The rumors that we are trying to verify range from the number of actual deaths, alcoholism and family breakups due to working conditions." Langelle added, "We also heard there were acts of sabotage in retaliation by the workers."

The dams of LaGrande were built by workers who were exploited, the dams have destroyed indigenous traditonal culture and the dams have had a horrible impact on the flora and fauna of the region. It's all interconnected. And HQ has many more plans for the earth and its inhabitants.

For further info and how you can get involved please contact:

INT'L COORDINATION
Eastern North American NFN
Orin Langelle
POB 57
Burlington, VT 05402 USA
(802)863-0571/Fax: (802)863-2532
email: peacejustice@igc.apc.org

NORTH AMERICA
MONTREAL
Carla Nemiroff
Solidarity With Native People
4567 Esplanade Ave
Montreal, Quebec
H2T 2Y6 Canada
(514)844-4961

NEW YORK
Ursala Avis
POB 408
Cooper Station
New York, NY 10276

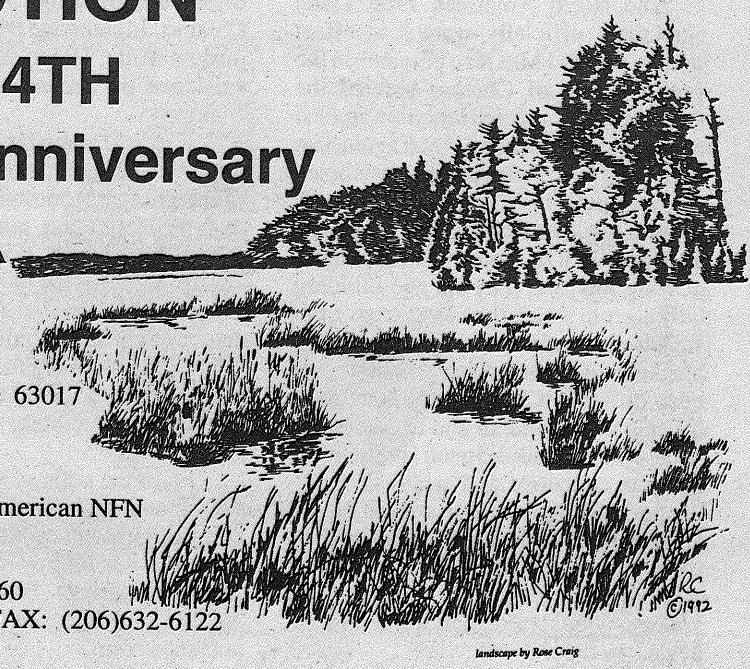
CHICAGO
Industrial Workers of the World
Miles Mendenhall
1466 West Irving Park Rd
Chicago, IL 60613-1954

MIDWEST USA
Greens/IWW
Steve Taylor
50 Clarkson Ctr
Box 493
Chesterfield, MO 63017
(314)349-5269

WEST COAST
Western North American NFN
Suzanne Pardee
POB 60271
Seattle, WA 98160
(206)545-3734 /FAX: (206)632-6122

EUROPE
Earth Action Resource Center
Jake Burbridge
PO Box E, 111 Magdelen Rd.
Oxford OX4, UK
(865) 201-705
email: eartharc@gn.apc.org

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
NFN
Tim Cadman & Beth Gibbings
112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine
Tasmania 7304, Australia
cadwood@peg.apc.org



landscape by Rose Craig

The James Bay Project is the ultimate arrogance of the engineering mentality in its devastation of the North American Contintent

Thomas Berry

This fact sheet was compiled from numerous sources by the Native Forest Network. This is only the tip of the iceberg concerning HQ as their tentacles are beginning to reach around the globe.

JAMES BAY & HYDRO-QUEBEC

"The James Bay Project is the ultimate arrogance of the engineering mentality in its devastation of the North American Continent," says Thomas Berry, the author of *Dream of the Earth.* What is at stake is the entire ecosystem and its inhabitants of the James Bay region of Canada's province of Quebec. This region is the heart of the largest remaining wilderness area in eastern North America.

James Bay forms the southern tip of Hudson Bay. This shallow salt water bay is the largest northern river drainage system. The fresh water from virtually every major river from the northeastern part of the North American continent flows into James Bay where it mixes with the Bay's salt water over marshy tidal flats to create a vast and diverse ecosystem.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa announced the James Bay Hydro Project on April 30,1971. The project would tap the energy of the rivers flowing into James Bay and Hudson Bay to produce hydro-electric power and be carried out under the guidance of the utility corporation, Hydro-Quebec (H-Q). To the indigenous people and the flora and fauna of the region, it is a insideous nightmare. The multi-billion dollar James Bay Project an ecological holocaust. First started in 1971, Phase I, aka the LaGrande Project (now in its final stages) began with the building of many dams, dikes and the flooding of over 10,000 square kilometres of land. This destroyed the habitat of a vast number of migratory birds, fish, and mammals. In 1984, 10,000 caribou were drowned when water was released from one of the resovoirs.

The flooded area is the home of the indigenous Cree. The project has uprooted several Cree communities and has effected their health and traditional way of life. Mercury poisoning is a byproduct of this "Project of the Century." Mercury contamination occurs when vast areas of land are flooded. As the flora decays it produces conditions favorable to the methylation of mercury. Methyl Mercury is a bio-accumalative poison that affects many forms of life as it becomes concentrated. There is documented mercury poisoning in many of the Cree. Besides mercury poisoning, high tension lines, aluminum smelters and roads have disrupted the area. With the disruption of the Cree traditional way of life, has come higher rates of suicide and alcoholism.

Phase II and III

Phase II, aka the Great Whale Project, is the current scheme being fought by indigenous people and environmentalists. It will flood about the same amount of earth as the LaGrande Project and with it will come even more devastating ecological and social traumas. Besides destroying 15 major rivers, river diversions will lead to a concentration of fresh water flowing into Hudson Bay which will alter the salinity and water temperatures and will impact marine life. The phenomenon that produced mercury in the first phase will be repeated. This time the mercury will make its way into the Hudson Bay and will effect the Beluga whales and seals that live there. The plan is going full steam ahead without any consideration to the people who live there. This is the ancestral land of the Cree and Innuit.

Phase III looms ominously in the future. Planned is the $100 billion dollar Grand Canal. This project proposes to build a 100 mile dike across the mouth of James Bay to seperate it from Hudson Bay so that the now freshwater from James Bay can be pumped (possibly via nuclear powered pumps) to the Great Lakes, and thence to the midwestern and southwestern United States.

These projects will have a serious impact in contributing to global climate change due to greenhouse gasses released and the disruption of James Bay hydrological processes; and will cause other, as yet unknown, long-term ecological disasters. The policy of displacing the indigenous peoples of the region and their lifestlye and culture amounts to nothing less than genocide.

Albert Meascum, a Cree trapper living in the Ouje-Bougoumou village had this to say about forestry in Quebec: "I asked the forest company not to cut certain parts of my trapping territory, but they paid no attention...Before the forest companies came, there was lots of game. By cutting down the trees they have chased away the animals. They have taken away their food supplies...As well as cutting down the trees, the forest companies pollute. They spill oil and gas on the land and poison the young willows that feed the moose. When the snow melts, the gas and oil go into the lakes and pollute the water and the fish."

Governmental Justification of Eco-Genocide

H-Q has the full weight of the government behind it, so that it has easy access to police, judicial, and military force to enforce its decisions. H-Q has went as far as creating a private police force that is transcending political boundaries by operating in the U.S. to gather information on those opposed to the projects. As a governmental institution, H-Q can utilize eminent domain laws to seize land and personal property which it needs for its projects without respecting the rights of the traditional dwellers of the region.

H-Q functions as a profit-making business and has used this as an excuse to throw a shroud of secrecy over its operations. All of its business dealings are secret and are not divulged to the public. For example, Quebec Superior Justice Andre Forget recently issued an injunction forbidding journalists from publishing the contents of its secret contracts with 13 multi-national corporations.

H-Q is the governments bid to implement an economic strategy based on hydro-electric power. The Quebec government hopes this will spur regional economic development and improve its balance of trade as it moves to secede from Canada and become a nation-state of its own.

The vested interests profiting from H-Q have become the dominant force in Quebec politics. They are fanning the flames of separtist politics so that H-Q can remain independent from federal environmental review or federal human rights protection for the indigenous peoples whose lands are being confiscated for the development projects. The companies and institutions originally created to serve a governmental goal of energy independence are now controlling the government.

ANOTHER CRISIS FURTHER SOUTH

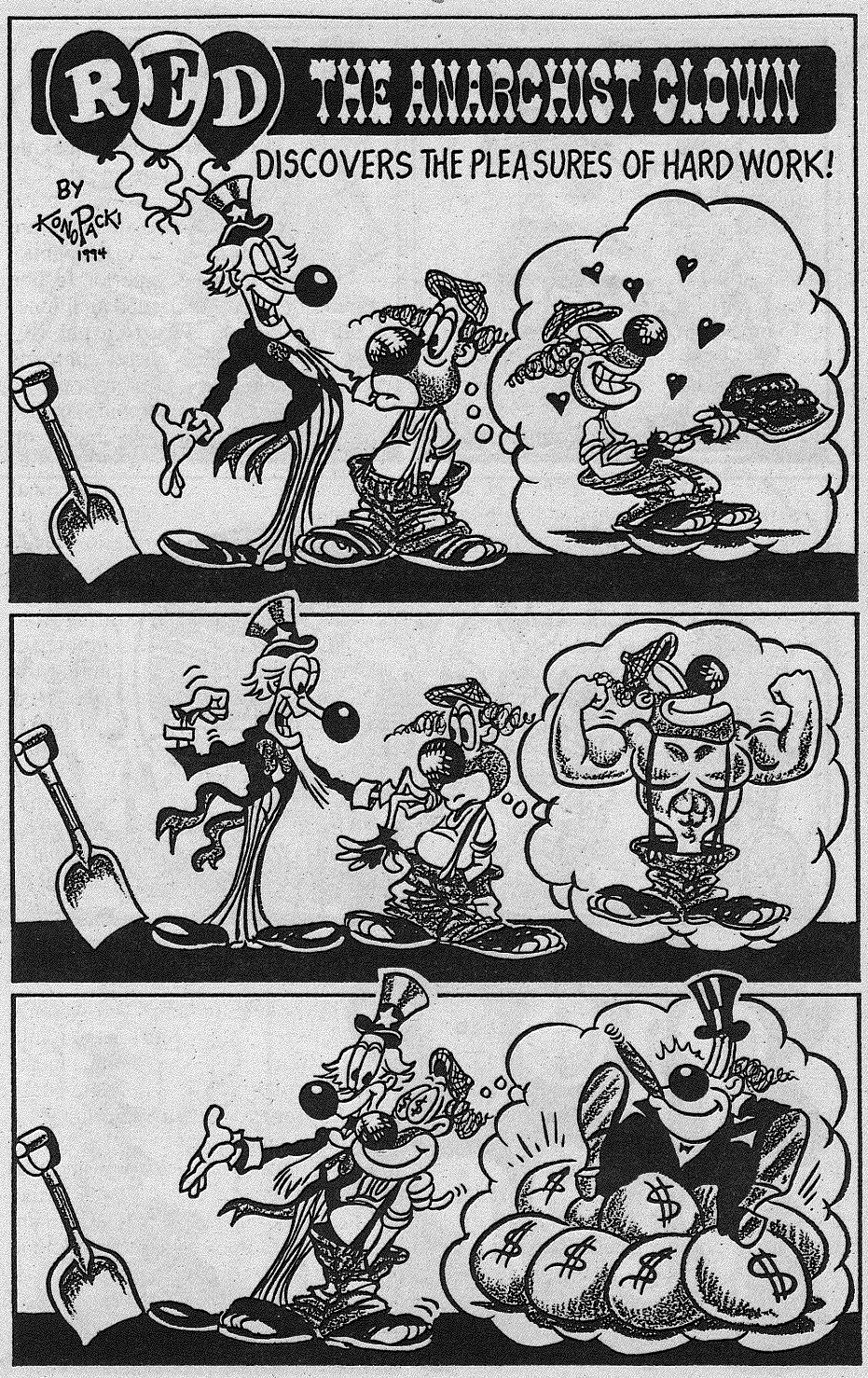
If the projects in James Bay weren't enough, further to the south near the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Quebec, another mega project is planned. The Sainte-Marguerite Three Project is a $2 billion venture that would divert the the Moise River's tributaries, the Pekans and the Carheil, cutting the flow by 40% at the confluence of the three rivers. The dam is being built to provide electricity to a proposed aluminum smelter plant. This is the indigenous Innu territory. There are already 19 dams in their region.

1994 Wage Slave World News

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

FEBRUARY, 1994 VOL. 4, NO. 11

1994 PREDICTIONS THAT WILL SHOCK THE WORLD!



AT LAST!
DNA SCIENTISTS DEVELOP THE PERFECTWORKER!

New Wage Slave Feature!

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

FREE

RED THE ANARCHIST CLOWN

Mini-comic included in this issue!

BIZARRE PREDICTIONS FOR 1994

Wage Slave World News

- Robert Reich is a space alien.
- Slavery is legalized
- GI Joe is kicked out of the army

by BIGFOOT
Special to the Wage Slave

IF YOU THOUGHT 1993 WAS BAD, JUST WAIT FOR THE OUTRAGEOUS EVENTS 1994 HAS IN STORE FOR US!

As a favor to the *Wage Slave World News*, Bigfoot has agreed to offer his/her predictions for the coming year:

* * *

Labor Secretary Robert Reich will admit to a startled world that he is a space alien with a revolutionary solution to the age old problem of labor management conflict.

* * *

Elvis will sue the *Weekly World News* for $700 million dollars claiming he was unjustly fired after 12 years as Dead Elvis.

* * *

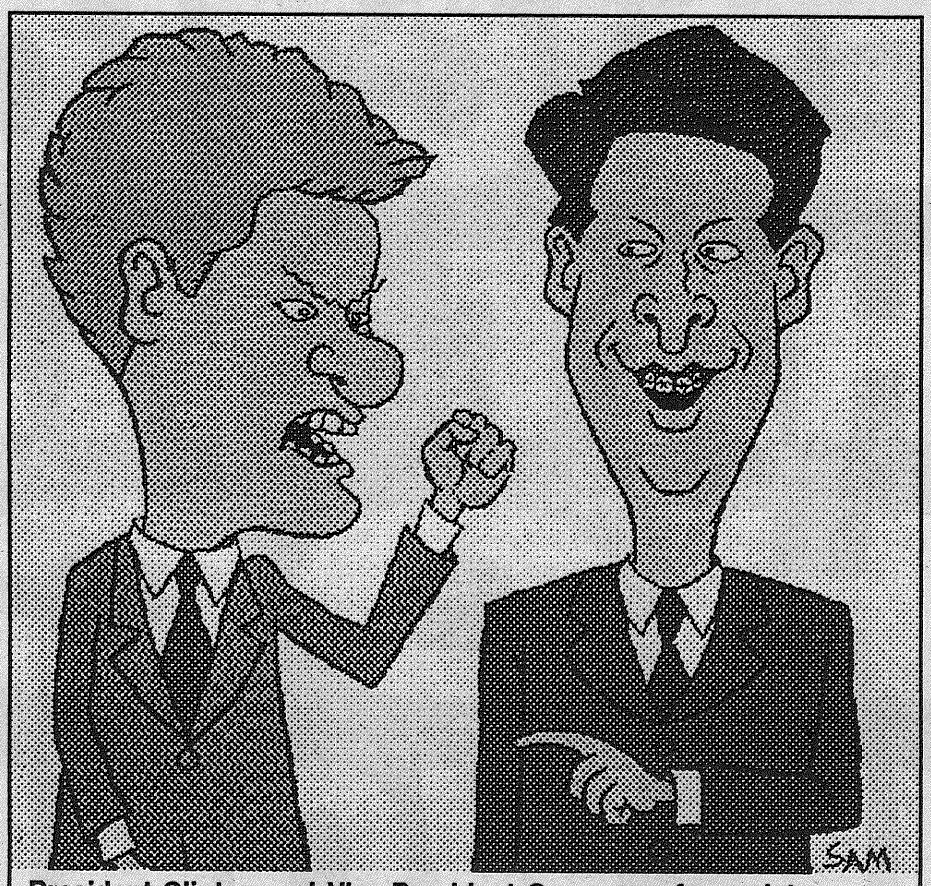
The Haymarket Martyrs will be found alive and will form a new world order of anarchist utopia.

* * *

Jimmy Hoffa will be found alive and will organize truck drivers in Mexico.

* * *

Joe Hill will be found alive, but will be too old to do anything.



President Clinton and Vice-President Gore pose for a picture as Beavis and Butthead in MAD magazine. The appearance was so well received that they will resign their government jobs too star as Beavis and Butthead for MTV.

According to the *Weekly World News*, nobody will ever die again causing a devastating global overpopulation problem.

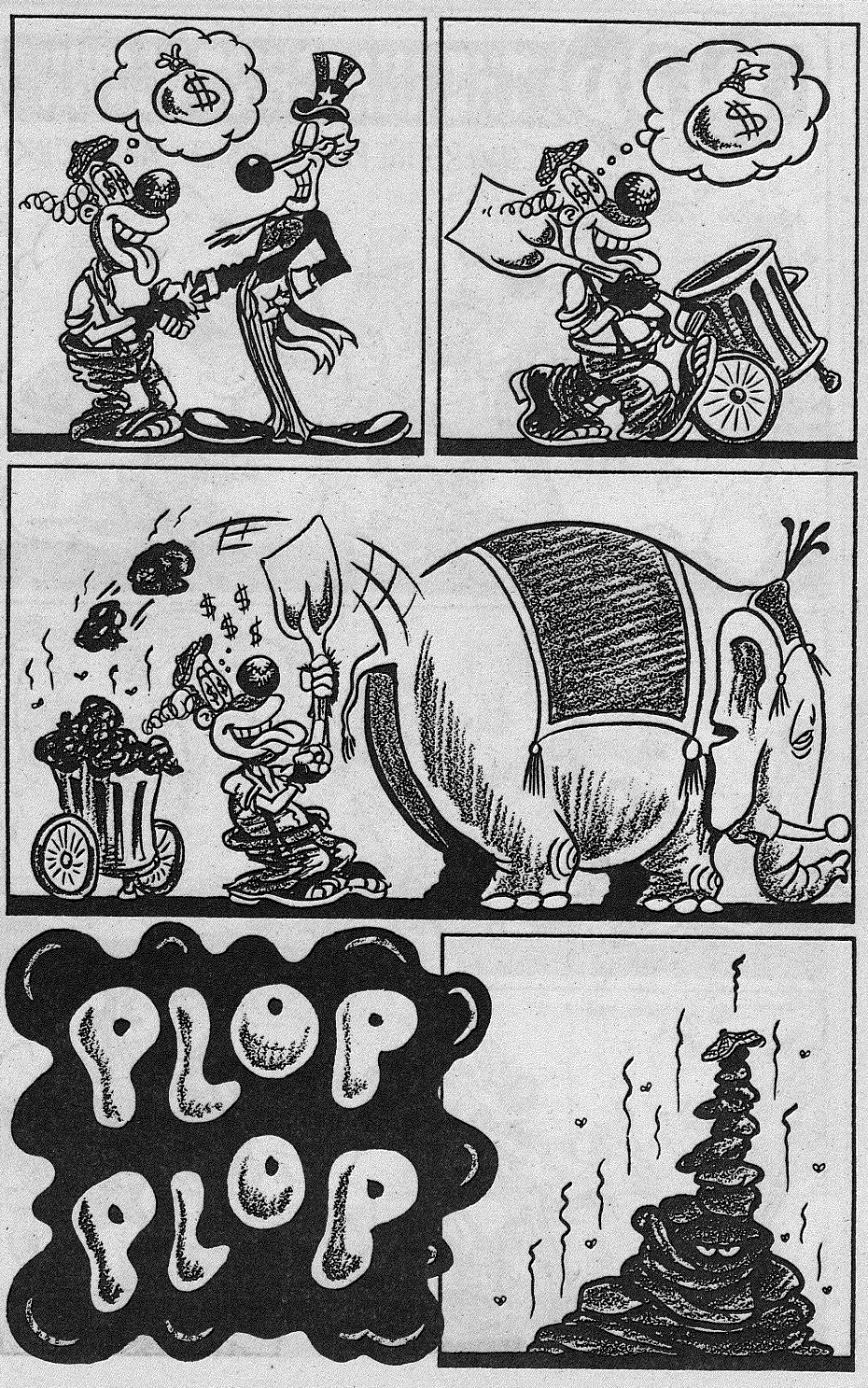
* * *

GI Joe will be kicked out of the military! After New York performance artists removed his voice box and replaced it with Teen Talk Barbie's, GI Joe's sexual preference will be questioned. GI Joe violated the new "don't ask - don't tell" policy of the pentagon when he answered the question, "Shall we destroy Cobra," with the reply, "Let's go shopping."

* * *

Rush Limbaugh is so in love with himself that he will marry his mirror image. Rush's right wing fans will not care that he is in love with someone of the same sex.





Labor Secretary Robert Reich will reveal that he is a space alien with a revolutionary solution to labor/management conflict.

AT LAST!

THE PERFECT WORKER!

"PERFECT WORKERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN. And we'll make them to order," say scientists at the Perfect Worker Program (PWP). "With Perfect Workers you will have passive proletarian productivity plus proliferating profits!"

The Perfect Workers Project was developed by economic experts to rid capitalism of the vexing problem of rebellious robotniks. Perfect Workers are the result of years of dedicated DNA research. "The recent rebellion in Mexico encouraged us to announce our perfect DNA creations ahead of schedule," said a genetic engineer at the PWP.

The scientists demonstrated several models including:

All Brawn, No Brain — Long desired by bosses everywhere, this model has excess muscle power, and no pesky presumption that as a member of the working classes it should think. In fact this model has no brain at all. It does what it's told and worships the minimum wage.

Perfect Consumer, Green + Greed — In keeping with the new corporate environmentalism, this model eats and consumes everything, while only producing biodegradable waste. It is eager to work cheap - and accumulate consumer debt. When exhausted, these Perfect Workers organically decompose by themselves and pass on their consumer debt to their immediate families.

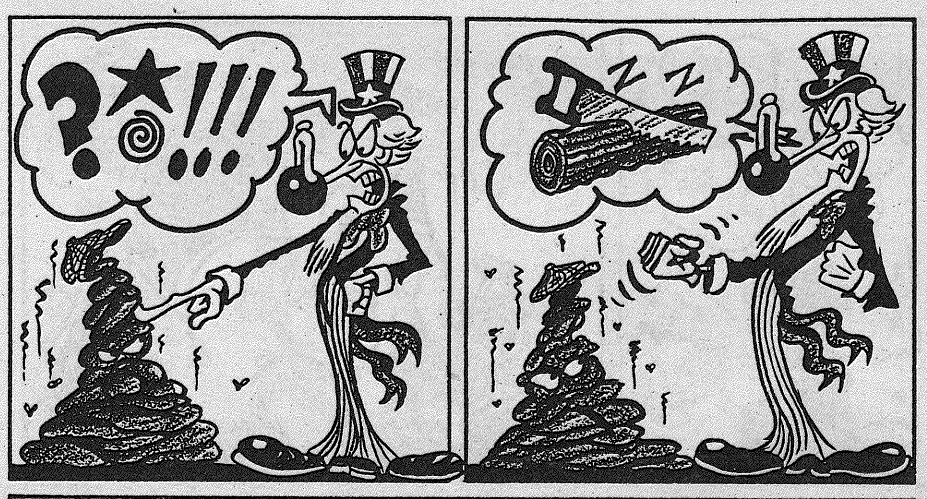
The Toy — This specialized model is designed to keep its owner happy. It cooks, cleans, and can be programmed to lose at golf, poker or video games. A perfect executive gift.

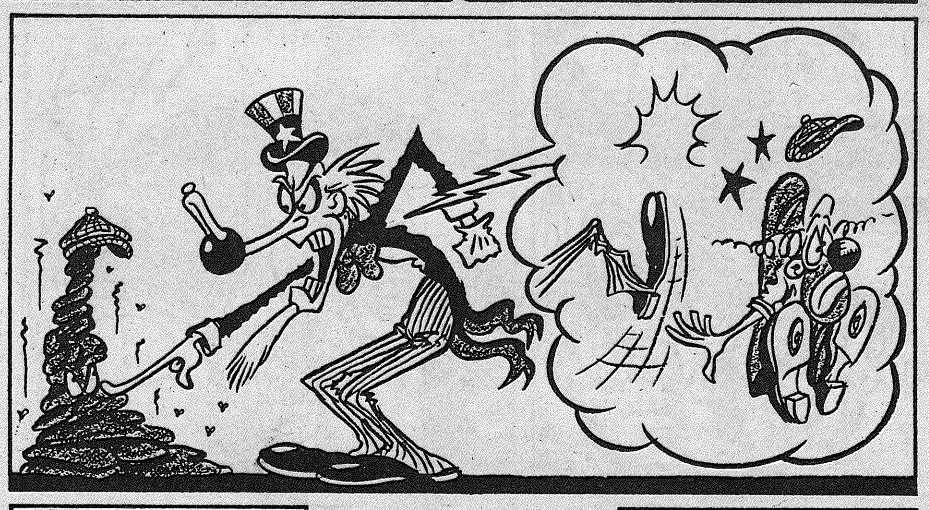
The PWP Laboratories, once part of The Military Industrial Complex, were recently converted to the peace-time Cyber-Slavery System. "Perfect Workers are the 'peace dividend' and the high tech future rolled into one," says one of their creators.

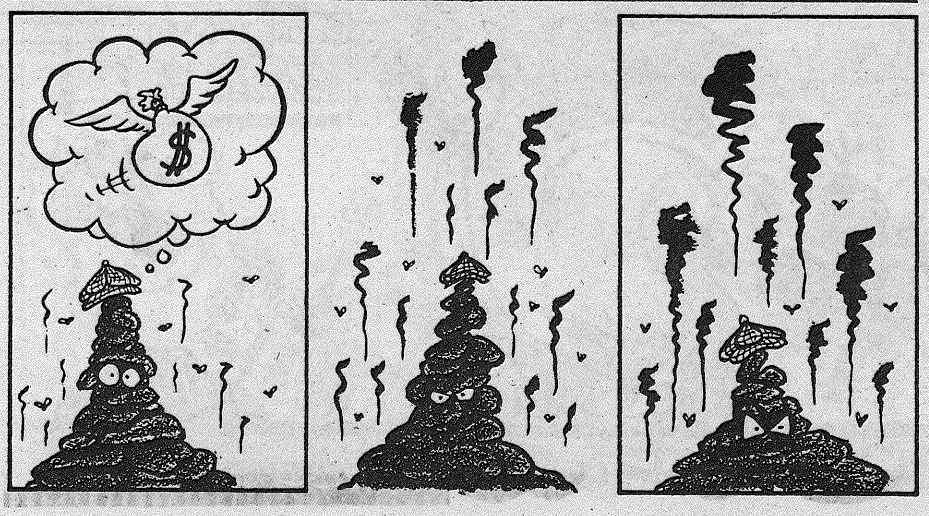
PWP sources have, however, denied introducing sterilization drugs into the drinking supplies of major cities in an attempt to create an immediate need for their products.



Bosses are jubulant over the prospect of owning the genetically improved, "Perfect Worker."
-Artists conception by Robert Minor







WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS

SENSATIONALIST WORKERS OF THE WORLD

VOL. 4, NO. 11
FEBRUARY, 1994

Official organ of
the Sensationalist
Workers of the World
Editor: Mike Konopacki
Writer: Jeff Ditz

This is a constitutionally protected magazine of political satire. Any similarity to actual persons is intentional.

Says angry Congressman

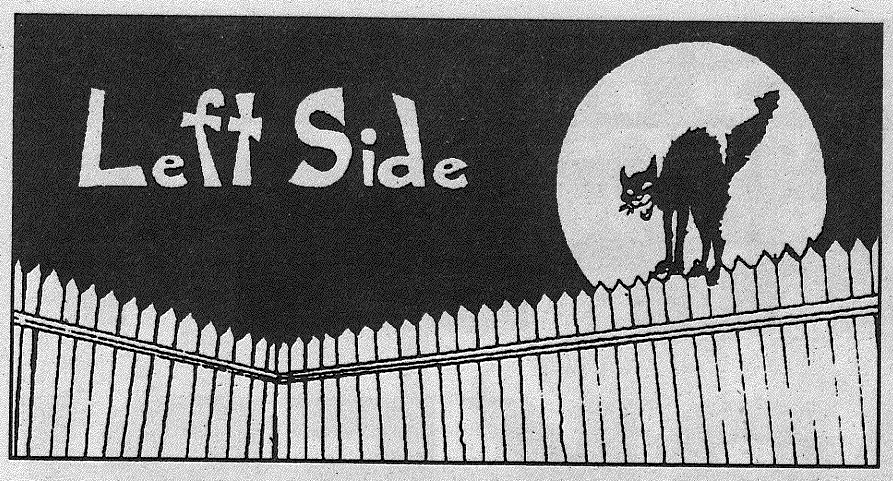
"PAY LAW MAKERS NAFTA WAGES!"

Congress should take a dose of its own medicine and pay itself NAFTA size wages, says Congressman Bernnie Sanders (I., Vt.)!

In order to make Congress more competitive on the world market, Sanders has introduced legislation to reduce its salary to Mexican proportions.

Using the logic of NAFTA supporters, Sanders says Congress should make a salary of $35,410, instead of the bloated $133,644 they now pig-out on.

However, Mexican NAFTA workers make even less per year, $2,080, or one dollar an hour.



A catch-word that over the past few years has somehow been enjoying unmerited currency has been increasingly getting into the craw of yours truly. That is the phrase "politically correct", that I keep hearing bandied around a little too much of late, over the mass media and from personal acquaintances. I am always tempted to ask, "according to whose politics?" This term "politically correct" seems no more logical to me than if one were to say "opinionally correct." As far as your scribe can figure out, this absurd phrase is but a put-down that self-styled intellectuals use against each other when they could be putting their intellects to much better use.

As you all well know, put-down artists are those whom semi-consciously realize that they do not have too much going for themselves, and compensate by trying to drag others down to their level. Starting out on my eighth decade, your not-so-humble scribe takes pride in having spent a lifetime being politically incorrect. While intellectuals are debating over whose opinions are going to save the World, we are fast approaching the demise of the Twentieth Century and the intellectuals don't seem to realize that those who manipulate us are doing their best to push us back into a bygone century. I am not hiding any grudges against nostalgia buffs in general as long as they keep their nostalgia to themselves. After all, having joined the geritol set, myself, I am occasionally guilty of indulging in a bit of nostalgia. Whatever nostalgia I may indulge in, if it has any deleterious effects, affects myself and myself only. Being politically incorrect as I am prone to be, it is a blessing that my influence goes no farther than my big mouth.

But it's a damn pity that those who long for the good old days before there were any unions, worker's benefits, compensation or rights, enjoy such positions of undue influence on the rest of us. If the gently reader does not deem this as a disaster, try to imagine if I were to impose my nostalgia on everyone else and return to the good old days of the minuet, the Gregorian Chant and the missionary position. Your scribe is so politically incorrect as to believe that would be a disaster of hardly less magnitude. I had mentioned previously that I too am not above indulging in a bit of nostalgia but I will hasten to add that even if I had the undue influence over others that our manipulators now enjoy, it would have to be by consensus of those whom are directly influenced by such nostalgia and would directly benefit from such. I am referring to the early days of our species when we found out that the welfare of others was inextricably tied up with our own. Our antediluvian forebears reached a high state of cultural development by banding together in communities for mutual protection. It was through that banding together that we developed agriculture which culminated in established communities and industrial civilization that unfortunately became perverted with the establishment of the institution of property. There are those who say that consensus worked well in simple societies but with today's burgeoning population and advanced technology, consensus of billions of people is unfeasible. Having occasional seizures of reality I am well aware that operating a society of billions of people presents a far greater challenge than small tribal communities but I am still so adamantly politically incorrect as to feel it is not impossible. Our burgeoning population along with our dwindling natural resources makes it imperative that we should not trust our destinies to rest in the whims of an infinitesimally small number of our species to do with as they damn well please and to Hell with the future. The mere fact that the more affluent areas of human habitation have a much lower birth rate than the poverty-stricken areas of our Earth presents us with a logical solution to the problem of population to which I am so politically incorrect as to be afflicted with terminal optimism. Let the politically correct intellectuals stay in their ivory towers to indulge in their intellectual masturbation to their hearts content. Giving intelligent people their due, it must be realize that significant developments in our human society were made not by a few intelligent people by overwhelming hosts of our species realizing which side of the butter their bread was on. It was Bakunin who said he would remain an impossible person as long as those who are now possible remain possible. Your scribe is neither a profound historian nor theoretician but he has lived long enough to see much younger people snow him under at that game. But the time is short! In the meantime I am happy that I am politically incorrect.

by C.C. Redcloud

Wage Slave World News presents...

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

UNION'S BIZARRE EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN EXPOSED!

by Fanny Mae

Special to the Wage Slave

IMAGINE A RETIREMENT PLAN where your union buys your house for twice what its worth, plus all its furnishings, and allows you to live in it rent free until you retire!

That's just what the United Food and Commercial Workers do for their top brass.

William Wynn, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers sold his house in Washington, D.C. three years ago to the union for $620,000 plus $129,000 for furnishings. The presidential house, said to be only worth $300,000, was purchased under a plan where the UFCW buys houses from its international officials to make it easier for them to return to their home towns.

Unfortunately for Mr. Wynn, the putrid policy was discovered by irate rank and filers from Wisconsin. After being officially embarrassed, Wynn bought back the house for more than $1,000,000. "When our scheme was exposed, we were stuck in a no-win situation," said one peaved pork-chopper.

Union officials deny Wynn will repay the $1,000,000 with a no interest 1000 year loan from the UFCW's new Union Officials Savings & Loan Retirement Program.

The Wage Slave will keep an eye on the UFCW and its corporate partner, the George A. Hormel Company, in case they plan to retaliate against the Madison, Wisconsin Local 538 rank and file members who exposed the dubious deed.



Dear Ned Ludd & Molly Maguire

READERS STORIES OF DIRECT ACTION ON THE JOB

"Wob-on-the-Job" foils speedup

by X341813
Los Angeles GMB

Sabotage - the word means many things to many people. We in the IWW are aware that the most effective form of sabotage is often the "Conscious Withdrawal of Efficiency" in the workplace. This can be done simply to provide wage slaves a bit of secret satisfaction in the face of exploitation, but no one should underestimate its value as a tool for gaining workplace conditions beneficial to workers.

That is exactly what employees at a local retail store knewrecently, when they began to Slow Down On the Job!

Extra staff had been hired for the holidays, and management let it be known that selected individuals of this bunch might gain permanent employ-ment. The previous staff felt this to be a threat to their own job security, as some of them were clearly not on the boss's "A" list and might be replaced.

Now, it's all too frequent that workers in such situations end up pitted against each other, attempting to out-shine all others in the eyes of the boss. Each worker strives to be more efficient than the next, so the bosses further cut staff leaving a core of cynical, over- worked slaves forever caught on the treadmill of pleasing the capitalists.

Well, at this job it didn't work out that way. The Wob On The Job urged his or her fellow workers to consider that they were all in the same boat. Both permanent and temporary workers wanted the same thing: a secure job.



The above graphic was printed in our last issue without credit. It was done by Seth Tobocman. Tobocman's work can be found in *World War 3 Illustrated* (PO Box 20271, Tompkins Sq, NYC NY 10009).

Mysterious Delays

We all know competition is a game the wage slave can ill afford to play. At best, you will be overworked. At worst, you'll be laid off or fired. Well, to cut to the chase, quite a few of these workers saw the sense in what the Wob was preaching and mysteriously, it became rare that the pre-opening hour chores were done in time for the store to open. This meant some staff had to be reassigned to continue these chores instead of assisting customers to lighten their cash load before leaving the premises. The result was that product stayed in the overstock room and off the shelf until rather late in the day, while customers often couldn't get assistance finding where to look for a product that wasn't restocked yet anyway. What a mess!

Bosses Hear Pennies Scream

The bosses couldn't lay the blame on any one person. Who knows, maybe it was the sheer volume of holiday business that caused the clog. However they cut it, it came to the same thing -the parasites could only hear the nightmarish sound of lost pennies screaming! Suspicious though they were, they took on all the temporary workers as permanents and let none of the others go. Everyone, for the time being, has a secure job and the parasitic class that created unemployment was forced to pay the price themselves a bit.

But what's this thing about Building a Bridge, you ask? Well, it seems that when the retail cogs were well on the way to being retail clogs, one shift manager began correcting workers on tiny details with the aim to have them perform their tasks with the least consumption of time. She was in everyone's hair, suggesting shortcuts and the like. It got to be a bit of a joke as she herself had been ruthlessly exploit-ed, disrespected and underpaid for longer than most of the staff.

Ego Can Be Bridge for Boss

Workers were easily able to find ways around her meddling, but her antics reminded them of the British officer in the recently aired film "Bridge Over the River Kwai," who designs and oversees construction of a bridge for the war effort of his enemies who hold him captive. His ego gets so caught up in the affair that he does his best to prevent his fellow countrymen from demolishing the bridge. Maybe he never realized that assisting his enemies might well have the direct effect of lengthening his time in prison camp.

This retail straw boss really was intent on building a bridge for her own masters! Luckily, it didn't work.

SEND YOUR STORY TO NED AND MOLLY!

This reader written column of on the job experience is your chance to share your experiences with direct action on the job. Send your story to Industrial Worker, 4043 N. Ravenswood, Chicago IL 60613.

MAD IN U.S.A.

Labor Cartoons by Huck &Konopacki – Volume Three, 112 pages $12
Kerr, 1740 Greenleaf, Chicago IL 60626

Our Fellow Worker Mike Konopacki and his equally talented colleague Gary Huck have done it again! These two hard-hitting labor cartoonists who wield wicked paintbrushes have come out with their third book of cartoons *Mad in USA*. They can be justifiably swell-headed about it. True to the ancient Chinese adage that a picture can tell a thousand words, Mike and Gary's drawings, with a few choice words, are able to speak volumes.

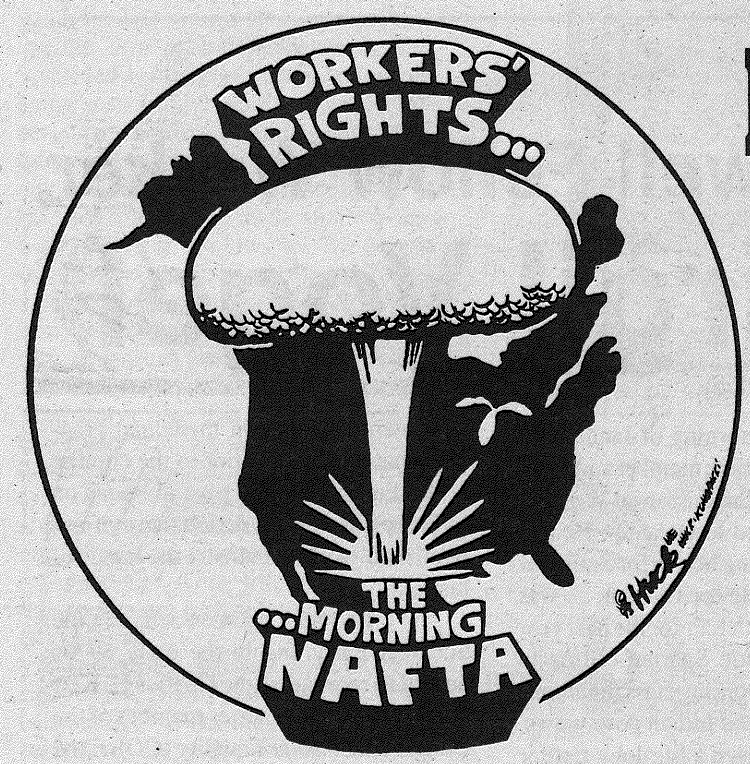
One cartoon with the caption, "politicks" shows the silhouette of an unpleasant bedbug with none other than the revered Capitol Dome for a rear end. Another shows the letters NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) with the L upside-down with a noose attached to it. Equally as pithy is the series of three panels showing a finish line: the first a tortoise is passing through, the second a snail, and the third a runner with the letters NLRB.

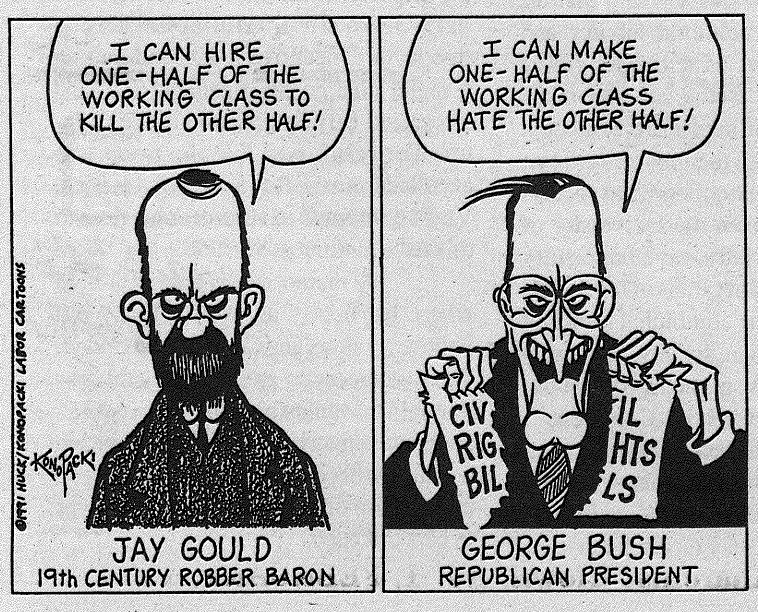
OSHA also gets its just due. The news item stating: "Bush Extends Moratorium of New OSHA Regulations" accompanies a drawing of tagged feet on morgue slab. Huck in particular has taken to creating collages. One such is a xerox of the Statue of Liberty with the head of W. C. Fields wearing an Immigration Services cap, repeating the famous line, "Go away, kid, you bother me!!"

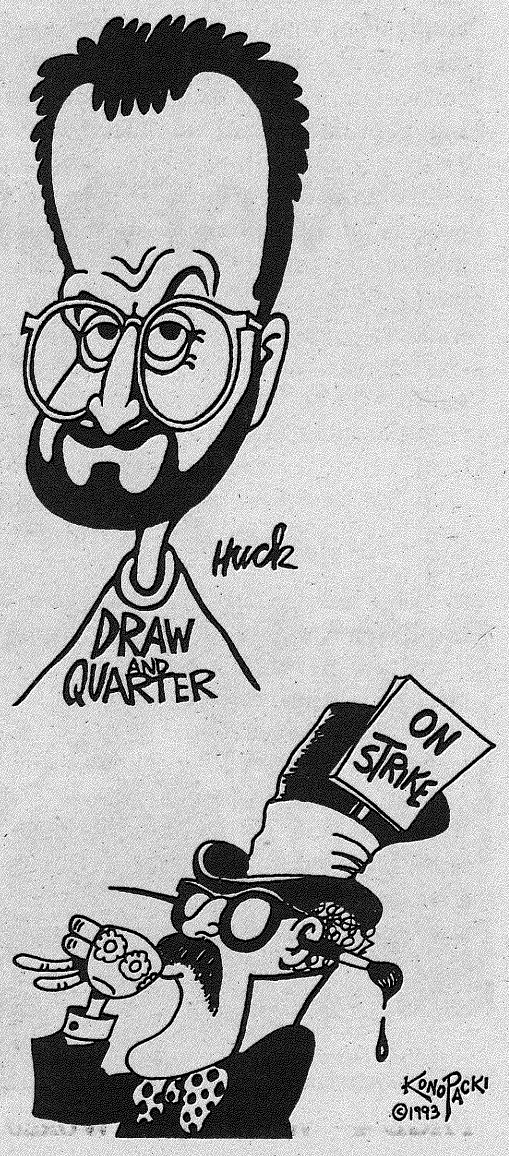
There are far too many other gems worth mentioning that it can only be recommended that the readers do not take this reviewers word for it but go out and find their own copy. For those of you that got a kick out of *Them* and *Bye! American*, you can be reasonably certain that all dedicated labor cartoon aficionados will get a triple Klotz from *Mad in USA*.

Huck-Konopacki Cartoons is a collaboration that provides a refreshing cultural oasis in our present economic wasteland.

Carlos Cortez







Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson

paperback $10
Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company
1740 Greenleaf
Chicago IL 60626

"I look out my window and see my neighbor's children head for school. I recall that there are general and corporations heads and ornery politicians with some unpleasant plans for these kids, and I know that this is no time for me to give up on the unfinished business of the IWW!"

This pithy quotation by Fred Thompson at the beginning of this modest little tome adequately sums up the ideology and life of our late Fellow Worker who spent his life trying to make this a better World to live in. Modest little tome, because while Fred researched and wrote extensively, he was little disposed to write about himself. While Fred was by no means any shrinking violet, it was far more important for him to expound on what he believed in than to promote his own personal ego.

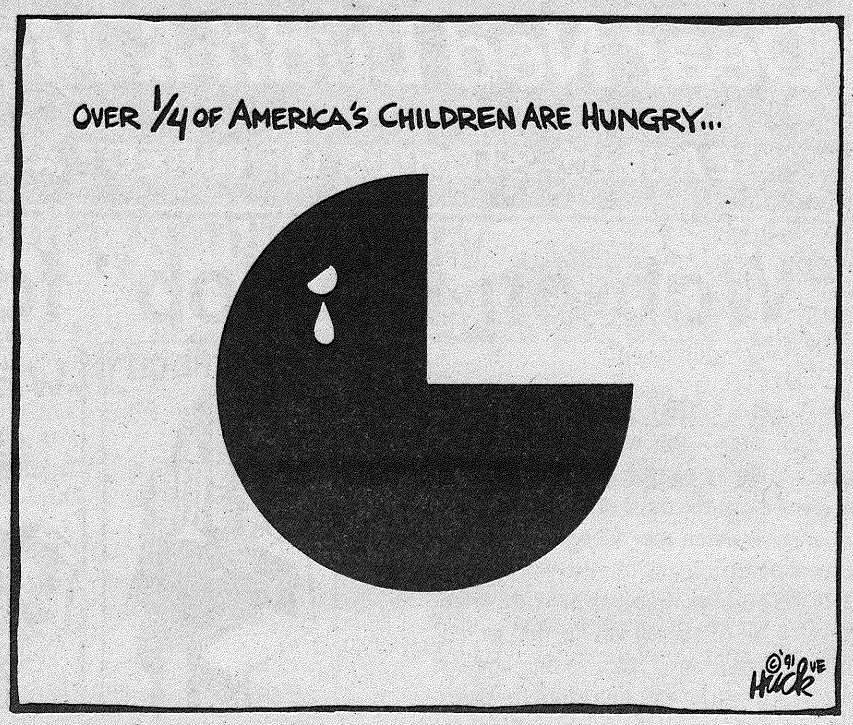
Nevertheless, as he writes about ideas that were important to him as well as some of the important events he took part in, one can get a revealing insight into the personality of Fred Thompson. The contents of this book were culled from collections of his personal correspondence and from interview with him, as well as from information he willingly sent to the Department of Immigration and Naturalization, challenging them on why they should deny his application for citizenship and just how the IWW was an organization "seeking to alter this form of government."

Those who knew Fred realize that if he were still around, he would no doubt vociferously discourage the publication of this book. To him ideas were of more importance than personalities. Like many of us who have long been in the struggle, he had witnessed those who started out quite idealistically, only to do an about face in later life which would give the detractors the opportunity to disparage whatever good ideas and work the erstwhile fighter had expounded. Also Fred, being a stickler for historical accuracy, did not hold much with personal reminiscences, knowing only too well the tendency of self-aggrandizement on the part of many autobiographers.

This book was compiled by Dave Roediger along with Franklin and Penelope Rosemont and others. Here you can read of his early youth in Nova Scotia and how at an early age he became a member of the Socialist Party of Canada, of his migrating out West to participate in the One Big Union and crossing the border into the USA and joining the IWW. In his twenties he was an IWW organizer, one of those sentenced to San Quentin under the criminal syndicalism statutes. He tells of his tenure as a "professor" at the Work Peoples College in Duluth Minnesota and its work to educate the class. Thompson was also one of those who helped to revitalize the Charles Kerr Publishing Company, the oldest publisher of radical books in the USA.

While this book is of special meaning to those who personally knew Fred Thompson, it is also an important addition to any working-class library, if only for its insight into the making of a true rebel.

C.C. Redcloud



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Write Norm Stockwell
IW Circulation
1331 Williamson
Madison WI



Farewell Fellow Worker
Virgil Vogel

On the morning of January 10 Virgil Vogel, one-time member and long-time supporter of the Industrial Workers of the World failed to wake up. He had been in deteriorating health for a number of years but despite the fact that he was confined to a wheelchair for the past year of his life, he made Spartan efforts to attend important working class functions, radical meetings and Indian pow-wows.

He had been a life-long fighter for a better World. As a young man he started out as a common laborer and even did his stint as a boxcar riding itinerant worker. Being the self-made man that he was, he kept up his education right on up through the university, from obtaining a bachelors degree to receiving a doctorate from the University of Chicago. His specialty was labor history and because of the parallels of his socialistic ideals with the communal life style of American Indian society, he had a consuming interest in the history of the original inhabitants of this Continent.

He was an extensive writer on many subjects from labor history to the contributions of the American Indian. He wrote many books on the latter subject, including one on medicinal practices that were used prior to the coming of the Europeans, and several books on Indian place names. A rich trove of unpublished work remains in the hands of his family.

He had long been active in the Socialist Party and in the early 1970s helped to reorganize the Charles H. Kerr Publishing Co. A charter member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) he participated in the first restaurant sit-in in 1943. When he lived in the Englewood district of Chicago as it was undergoing a racial change he organized the first integrated Boy Scout troop in the country. The result was that the troop was expelled from the Boy Scouts of America. Virgil continued to volunteer his time to this excommunicated troop.

A memorial service was held where his family as well as many old Fellow Workers and Comrades attended. The minister who gave the funeral oration said that "may his soul rest in peace" but ther are many among us that hope his writings will continue to disturb the apathy of those of our number who have yet to be awakened.

Chinese Workers in Turmoil

China's official labor union has urged the government not to sacrifice worker safety in its drive to attract overseas investment. Xue Zhaoyun, spokeswoman for All-China Federation of Labor Unions, made the unusually critical remarks following recent fires at Hong Kong and Taiwanese-funded factories that killed 148 Chinese workers. In both cases, fire-fighters said the factories were death traps, with flammable goods stored under workshops or worker dormitories and most exits barred in order to prevent thefts.

China's official union acts to enforce government policy in the workplace and rarely makes public criticisms. The government fears it will frighten away overseas investors if it tries to enforce safety regulations. But safety inspectors often show indulgence toward domestic and foreign investors alike, and many factories expose workers to noxious fumes, excessive noise and other dangers.

Worker Blows Up Shop

Worker discontent is manifesting in several ways. On Nov.26, 1993, Tan Zhixin, a worker at the Nanling Chemical Plant in Shuangpai County, Hunan Province, blew up his workshop after his request to become a factory driver was rejected, killing himself and 60 others. *Beijing Youth News* reported that more and more people in China expressed their dissatisfactions in a violent way as the economy opened up.

Amnesty International is calling on Chinese authorities to release 4 dissidents detained by police in Beijing and held incommunicado without charge. Their families have not been officially informed of the reason for their detention or where they are held.

Qin Yongmin, a 40-year-old former steel worker from Wuhan (central China) and Yang Zhou, a 50 year-old democracy and human rights campaigner from Shanghai, were detained by police in Beijing on 14 November. Their arrest came after they publicly issued a "Peace Charter" calling on the Chinese Communist Party to respect human rights and introduce political reforms. 7 others who signed a statement endorsing the core ideas of the Peace Charter were also detained for questioning, but were released after a few hours.

Two other dissidents, Zheng Xuguang and Ma Shaohua, from the central city of Xi'an, were detained by police in Beijing on 27 and 29 November and have not been heard of since. Earlier in November, the two men had launched a campaign calling for human rights improvements. They later went to Beijing to hold discussions with members of the "Peace Charter" group and were arrested shortly after they publicly announced the 2 groups had decided to coordinate efforts. Both were student leaders in the 1989 pro-democracy protests and had spent from 18 months to 2 years in prison following the June 1989 crackdown.

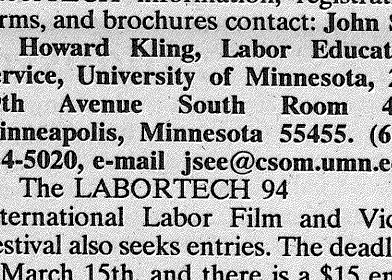
Also being held by Chinese authorities are Yu Zhijian, a teacher at Tantou Wan Primary School (Hunan Province); Yu Dongyue, newspaper worker; and Lu Decheng, a worker for the Hunan Provincial Bus Company. The 3 were arrested May 23, 1989, after they attacked the giant picture of Mao Zedong in Tienanmen Square with ink and paint filled eggshells, summing up in a single stroke China's experience with Marxism-Leninism. The 3 were convicted of counter-revolutionary sabotage and counter-revolutionary propaganda and sentenced to life, 20 and 16 years, respectively. While in prison they have been subjected to torture and several are now in grave condition. Please send protest letters to: **Li Peng, Premier, Beijing, China.**



"Anyone who sees parliament as the main place in which labourers can defeat corporate power, fails to understand that class relations are based in the workplace. This is the place they can challenge and be successful." --Hamid Mahmodi

IWW is on E-Mail at < iww@igc.apc.org >

Labour Solidarity is a publication of Iranian-Canadian Labour Solidarity Cte., PO Box 1228, Stn. Q Toronto ON M4T 2P4. News of workers in Iran, and international pressure on Islamic regime. Dec.93 reports 8 miners killed at Kerman, a wave of job cuts and layoffs due to economic restructuring and privatization in Iran, attempts to remove from the ILO delegates from the Islamic Worker Councils (fake unions), and the murder in Kurdistan of an Unemployed Workers Union activist by Kurdish nationalists.



LABORTECH '94 Conference & International Labor Video Festival, meets April 22-24 in Minneapolis' Holiday Inn Metrodome. LaborTech '94 will bring together organizers, computer experts, video and other media producers, and unionists with first hand experience to help activists seize the power of new technology. Scheduled Workshops include: Computer Networking for Solidarity; Labor Video Strategies; Community Radio and Public Access TV; Women, Technology and Power; How to Computerize Your Local PBS and Mainstream Television; Technological Access: Haves vs. Have Nots; and The Changing Workplace: Problems and Opportunities.

The conference registration of $125 per person includes all sessions and workshops, the International Video Festival on Friday night, lunch and breakfast Saturday and Sunday.

A $68 conference rate (plus 12% tax, single or double) is available at the Holiday Inn Metrodome on April 22 and 23. Call (800) 448-3663. For LaborTECH information, registration forms, and brochures contact: **John See or Howard Kling, Labor Education Service, University of Minnesota, 217 19th Avenue South Room 437, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. (612) 624-5020, e-mail jsee@csom.umn.edu**

The LABORTECH 94 International Labor Film and Video Festival also seeks entries. The deadline is March 15th, and there is a $15 entry fee. The festival will feature films and videos on issues affecting labor. Current and historical documentary, drama, video essay, advocacy video, and diaries in all lengths and formats are welcome. Send entries to Robb Mitchell, Labor Education Service at the address above. If you want the tape returned, enclose an SASE. Please include: Title, Producer, Artistic/Financial Contributors, Original format for work, Running Time, Brief Description, Name Address, and Phone Numbers of Contact Person.

Historic Labor Communication Conference Held in Moscow

Despite a coup d'etat, bad telephone lines and a host of other technical and organizing problems, over 80 participants attended the first international labor communication conference ever held in Russia. The conference, **"Modern Communications: New Vistas For Workers Solidarity,"** on October 19-20 was sponsored by Kas-Kor Labor Information Center in Moscow, Glasnet communication network, and LaborTech Communications in the United States.

What brought delegates from throughout Russia and the former Republics such as Kazakhstan and Lithuania, was the critical need to develop communication tools such as computers and to build communication links with trade unions around the world.

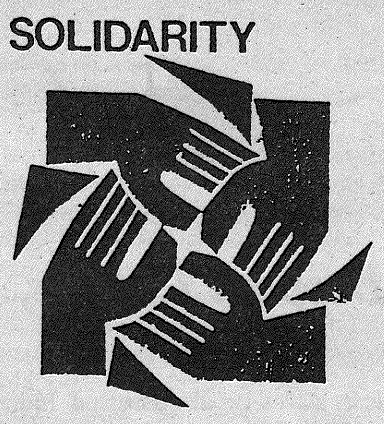
Some unions are already using computers to organize financial operations and in the last year, Glasnet in collaboration with trade unions has established 2 Russian language labor communication conferences.

Russian trade unionists and the Kas-Kor Labor Information Center have also established an english labor conference called **labr.cis** and have published a quarterly magazine in English, the *Russia Labor Review.*

Vassily Balog, from the International Dept. of the **General Confederation of Trade Unions** (GCTU), began the conference by recounting how this new computer communication network had already possibly saved lives.

Trade unionists and writers Boris Kargalitsky and Vladamir Kondratov, both of whom work with **Moscow Federation of Trade Unions**, were arrested along with other unionists by Yeltsin's police days following the attack on the White House. They were beaten at the police station and feared for their lives. Another prisoner contacted Kargalitsky's wife when he was released.

She contacted Vassily and within 2 hours he had put out an electronic call for support throughout the world. Within an hour, the police station was getting calls from reporters in Tokyo, New York and London. This forced the police to release them.



Jim Catterson, of the Research Dept. for the **International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers** (ICEF) in Brussels, pointed out that labor in Russia, like unionists in other countries, must use this new technology to find out "who the companies they are dealing with represent." Catterson was also visiting unions representing oil and chemical workers in Russia. Catterson warned that as multi-nationals invest in Russia and the former states of the USSR, it is critical that unions are linked with their counterparts in the west and the rest of the world to deal with these multi-national operations.

Also speaking was Marc Belanger, Technology co-ordinator of the **Canadian Union of Public Employees** (CUPE) and systems operator of **Solinet**, the largest national trade union electronic network in the world. Belanger provided examples of how electronic communication could allow unionists to take classes from labor and technology experts from around the world. Using this electronic network, he is organizing labor education classes with experts from South Africa, Russia and technology experts from the US without these people having to physically come to Canada.

Classes were held on computer networks and on using video equipment. Anatoly Voronov, system operator of **Glasnet** gave examples of how electronic networks can be used in Russia and how to overcome the language interface difficulties. Eduard Vokhmin, a producer of the radio show **"Labor Movement Chronicle"** on Radio Russia, reported on how he produces the show and what problems they face in expanding the show.

Efforts are also being made in Russia to produce a labor show on television but this is a costly proposition as television is being privatized and union resources are scarce.

One highlight of the conference was the screening of labor videos and films from around the world. The **Independent Trade Union Center of Kazakhstan** presented a video on their union struggles and videos were presented on labor struggles around the world from Mexico to the US and Japan.

Russian and East European workers are provided with either [illegible] or very one-sided stereotypes of workers struggle in the west. The organizers of the festival were keen to show the other side of labor struggles in the west that have been censored in Russia and Eastern Europe.

One video that was most interesting to trade unionists at the conference was **Japan Railways Mass Firings** which was produced by Akira Matsubara and Video Press in Tokyo Japan. The video shows the victimization of Japanese railway workers during the privatization of JR rail and how there was a decline in health and safety. This was the first time unionists in Russia and Eastern Europe had seen a video on the negative effects of privatization in the West. One unionist was so excited by the video he made arrangements to get it on television in his country so workers could see first hand the effects of privatization in Japan.

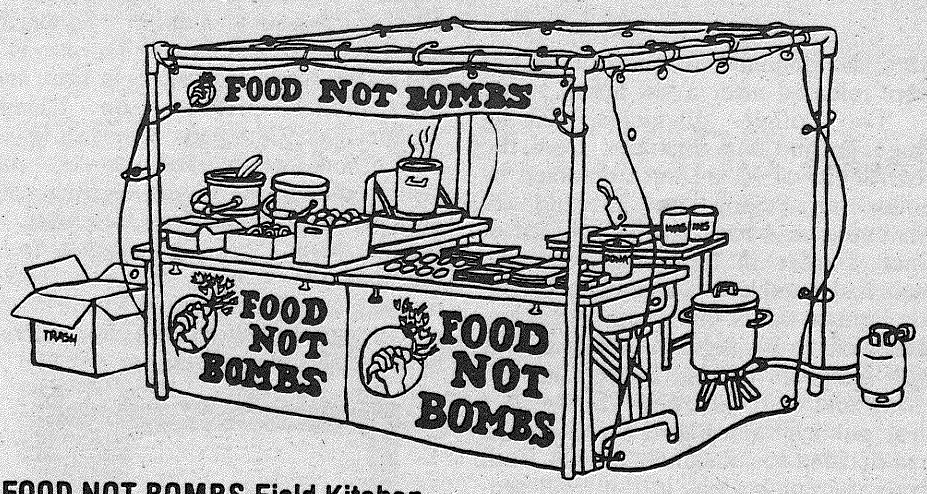
A full conference report is being prepared in Russian and English for wide distribution as well as a video tape of the presentations. For Information contact: **Kas-Kor Labor Information Center, P.O.Box 16, Moscow 129642, RUSSIA**, e-mail: **krazchenko@glas.apc.org** or: **LaborTech, P.O.Box 425584, San Francisco CA 94142**, e-mail: **lvpsf@igc.apc.org**

Union Rights Violated in Former USSR: Yelstin's decrees include modifications to the Labour Code which, for example, allow administrators to fire teachers for "a repeated during a year gross infringement of the educational institution's rules"; without specifying who has the right to determine such an infringement or offering any procedural protections for the workers affected.

Saint-Petersburg's Council has sought to confiscate regional unions' assets. The Federation of trade unions of air traffic control officers (FTUAC) was sued by Russia's Procurator General on charges of conducting an illegal strike in August 1992. The government wants the union dissolved.

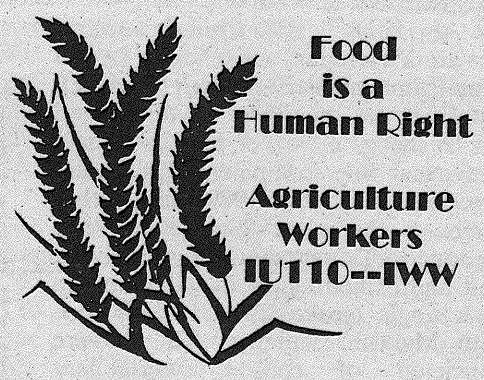
Byelarus' parliament has amended labor laws to increase management rights to fire and layoff workers without consulting unions. The Ukraine Supreme Council has restricted the right to strike and legalized employer lock-outs.

In early September, organizers of strikes of aviation and railway workers were prosecuted under these laws, since strikes in these industries are now banned. (from *Act Now!*, Oct.1993, International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR)



FOOD NOT BOMBS Field Kitchen

A. Soup
B. Salad
C. Spoons or forks
D. Bread or Bagels
E. Soup cooking on propane stoves
F. Box of fruit
G. Cutting boards
H. Handwash with soap
I. Handrinse
J. Five-gallon propane tank
K. Literature table



What Does *Food Not Bombs* Have To Do With The IWW?

by Crys-Vad Hyphus

To see the connection between Food Not Bombs and labor organizing, it is necessary that we examine one of the tensions between rhetoric and practice in the IWW. The rhetoric of traditional Wobbly thought emphasizes struggle between bosses and workers in a capitalist business, where a majority of North American workers have jobs.

What is left out of this picture, however, is that a great many of the Job Shops existing in the IWW today are cooperatives. This is not to say that the traditional labor struggle is not as valid or as central today as it was in 1905, but that it is not a complete picture of what the IWW in and out of Santa Cruz is actually doing.

The fact is Food Not Bombs is a food cooperative that serves its workers and the general public. That it is "real work" to tend a garden and salvage, prepare and serve food, then wash dishes several days a week cannot be denied. That Food Not Bombs uses a consensus decision process and gives its workers a steady supply of food rather than money to buy food and other things like rent, does not mean the struggle of these workers cannot be addressed in part through the IWW's labor oriented class analysis. Many of these workers depend on the free food they get as much as the wage slave depends on a regular paycheck to buy groceries.

It would be a grave error to replicate such a division in the IWW, since to do so is to buy into the employing class's strategy of dividing the working class in two. As long as the unemployed remain unorganized and waste their productive time and energy duplicating each other's efforts to survive, they will resent the "rich" wage slave because they know that in order to live a decent life they must be organized with other people; and they are shut out of the only form of organization they've ever known, wage-slave capitalism.

All the solidarity displayed by Pajaro Valley mushroom workers and their comrades on neighboring farms was not enough to stop the scabs recruited from among our own neighbors taking strikers' jobs because they need food and a home for their families. Hence we must work together to build alternatives even before firing the boss, which has been seen to get quite ugly.

As long as the employed remain afraid of unemployment, because all they've ever seen is unemployed people living miserably in unorganized isolation from each other, they won't want to put their jobs at risk by organizing on the job, especially if the Union can't give credible answers on how to deal with a 90-day "bad worker" penalty denying unemployment benefits should something go wrong.

If these workers can see how the Union can help them in a class struggle through working models of community inter-dependence and division of labor, however, they are less likely to say they can't risk their security for a dream. The IWW must pave the way for dependent workers to empower themselves by working together according to need, so as not to take the whole crack of the master's whip alone, and to see that the master's are not needed. *(excerpt from Action! newsletter Santa Cruz GMB)*

Read All About...

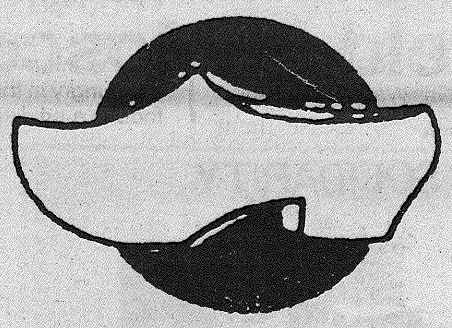
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Book Reviews

Gone to Croatan: Origins of North American Dropout Culture,

Edited by Ron Sakolski and James Koehnline. 382 pages, $12 paper, Autonomedia (Box 568 Williamsburgh Station, Brooklyn NY 11211-0568).

When Sir Walter Raleigh founded his colony at Roanoke he did so with assistance of a boatload of plain ordinary English working stiffs. Naturally those with a "Sir" attached to their name were accustomed to having some body else do their work for them. After seeing to it that the erstwhile denizens of the Cockney slums had the tobacco- and corn-growing well in hand, Sir Walter and his aristocratic cronies sailed back to Merrie Olde England to relieve their homesickness.

Having refreshed themselves in the homeland fleshpots they came back to Roanoke to see how well the serfs were taking care of their overseas fiefdom only to find out that said loyal serfs had taken off for a neighboring Indian village named Croatan. The serfs had opted to throw their lot in with the Indians rather than continue their association with Sir Walter and cronies, thus becoming the first American "dropouts."

This handsome volume compiled by IWW member Ron Sakolski and James Koehnline, is about those people in North American history who felt they had better things to do than tag along with the crowd. This is an anthology of those who for reasons of religious difference, ethnic identity or ideology chose to strike out on their own.

During the American Revolutionary War there were radical elements whom conservatives would dismiss as "anarchists" and there were those who were indeed anarchistic for their time. Even after independence from England there were segments of the population who felt that all that happened was a mere change of masters. A perusal of history will show that only property owners had the vote in the newly-formed republic.

Well known among the early discontents were the Shay's Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion, but there were also communities that took out for the woods and chose to join the Indians on the frontier. Some went as far as to form their own "Indian" tribes. While it is known that the founding fathers got their ideas of republican government from the Iroquois Confederacy, women still had no franchise in the new republic and were not to get it until the early decades of this century. While many labor under the impression that feminism and the struggle for women's right began with the Euro-Americans, Sally Roesch Wagner of the University of California points out that in the Iroquois Confederacy, as well as many other Indian nations, women had an equal voice in decision-making. Not only that, in the Iroquois Confederacy women determined who were to be the "chiefs"; and if a "chief" was not doing his job to their satisfaction it was they who unseated him.

During colonial days, before racism became institutionalized, Indians, African slaves, Irish and other European immigrants revolted against their colonial masters in the city of New York. In the early days of colonization, racism seemed to be the prerogative of the upper classes -- the laboring immigrants being no better off than the African slaves or dispossessed Indians found they had more in common with each other than with their respective bosses. That was before the boss class found it was expedient to keep the drudges divided.

In one chapter it is disclosed that many who were "captured" by Indians on the frontier refused to return to White society upon being "rescued." These happened to be mainly women and children, which gives a fair indication of what the status of women was in those days.

Quite a few chapters are devoted to various Indian and mixed-blood resistance to government encroachment. Notably the pan-Indian resistance of the Shawnee Tecumseh, runaway slaves and freedmen who joined southern Indian nations, among them the Black Seminoles who still maintain communities in Northern Mexico and West Texas, and the Metis of Canada, a mixture of Indians and French whose most well-known leader was Louis Riel.

Within these 382 pages is the work of a variety of writers, poets and visual artists of differing racial backgrounds. No history of the Western Hemisphere is really complete without input from its original peoples. It is they who developed the land that colonists from another continent hungered after. This book provides not only entertaining reading but is a valuable addition to any serious historian's library. *--Carlos Cortez*

ECO WARS

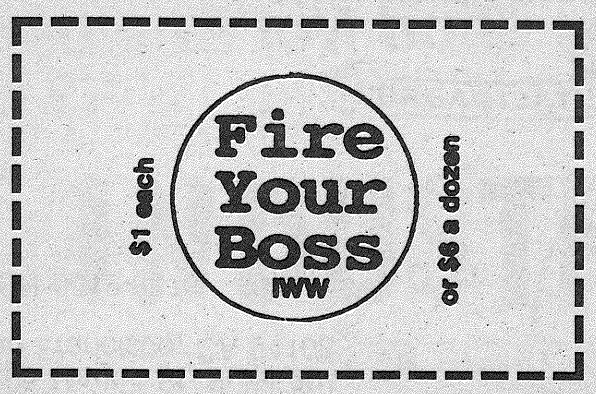
by Davey Garland illustrated by Babylon. 49 pgs. $5 (2 Br. pounds). GAMO, 151b London Road, Camberley Surrey GU15 9JY, 1993.

This book of poems and drawings has been published on behalf of the McLibel 2. In 1985, London Greenpeace members severely damaged the biggest fast-food purveyor in the world, by distributing copies of a leaflet, *What's Wrong With McDonalds?* (Copies available from GAMO.) The leaflet demonstrated that McDonalds didn't care about people--or workers, or the planet--only about profit.

McDonalds responded by bringing a libel action against two of them. British law requires the McLibel 2 to prove their innocence, rather than requiring McDonalds to prove its charges --and so the 2 are ringing up substantial legal costs. Proceeds from this booklet will be donated to the McLibel Support Campaign.

Davey Garland--a founder of the Belfast poet's collective, Wobbly and a long-time activist--wrote the 29 poems. Babylon contributed 5 stark ink drawings to complement the poetry. Garland's poems call us to resistance, even to armed struggle against the enemies of the earth. A sample:

Eco-warriors on a mission,
angry Angels who destroy the blight...
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through rocks of Iron and concrete,
and howl with the juice of their guts.
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and their hearts still
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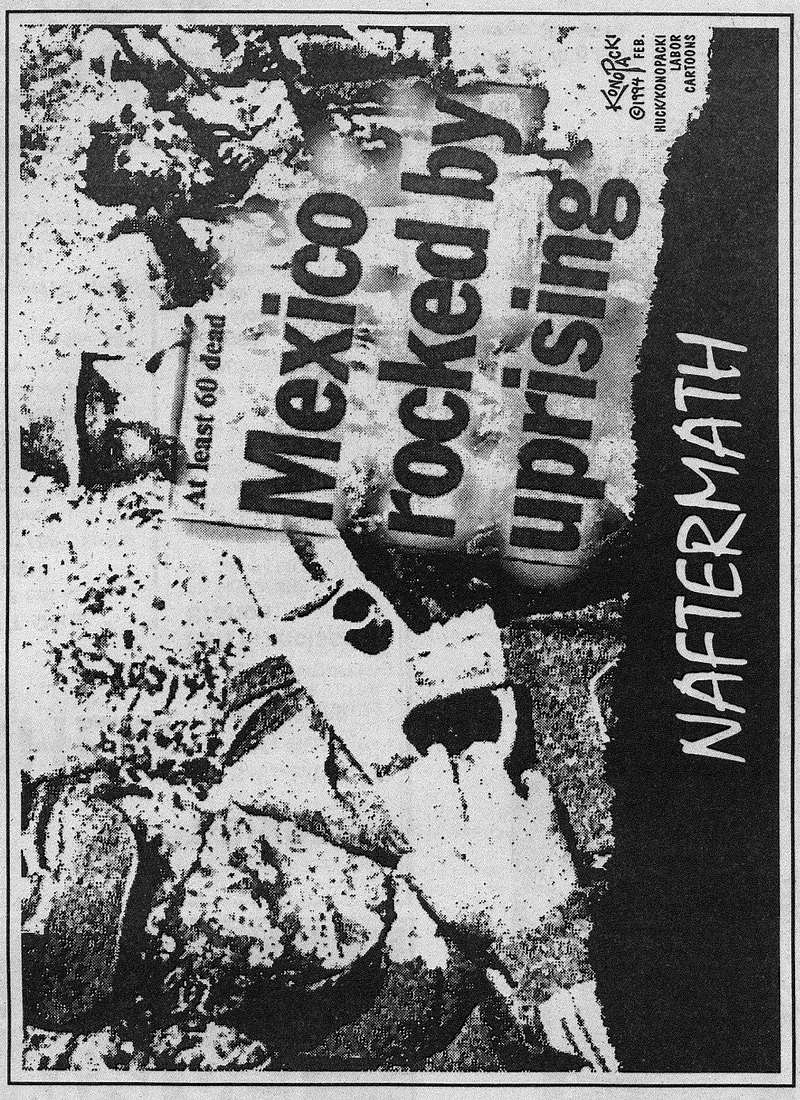
Industrial Worker

☆ Emancipation ☆ Organization ☆ Education

#1567 vol91 no2 | February 1994 | One Dollar

Wage Slave World News

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS



Bus Drivers Fight Toxic Fumes
Stopping Speed-Ups
Food Not Bombs

fast workers die young
slow down and live

02
74470 83350 5

The IWW is a Union for All Workers of All Politics, Sexes, Religions and Ethnic Origins!

"An (American) establishment that employs adolescents can anticipate a federal inspection once every 50 years." -- --National Safe Workplace Institute



"SMART CAREER MOVE, BIXBY."

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission** of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

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Be a Wobbly-Join the IWW

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has one paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer (GST), who is paid the same wage as IWW office workers. The 7-member General Executive Board (GEB) is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum. IWW workplaces & branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

Low Dues! Monthly income under $800: Dues = $3. Income $800-1700: Dues =$9. Income over $1700: Dues = $12. Initiation fee: Same as one month's dues. A low income person can join for as little as $6.

To Join: Mail this form with a check or money order to **IWW, 1095 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.**

__I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer._____
__I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization._____
__I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes._____

Name _____ **Occupation** _____

Address _____ **City** _____

State/Prov. _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone** _____

Total amount enclosed $_____ **Initiation $**_____ **Dues $**_____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker